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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 101

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY MAY 21, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Customs seizes $300K worth of meth disguised as vitamins

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, left, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas, and Department of Correction Commissioner Anthony Torres—members of the Drug Enforcement Taskforce—yesterday held a press conference to inform the public that about $300,000 worth of meth (about 2.9 lbs.) was intercepted last May 14 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's cargo area.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted last week about $300,000 worth of methamphetamine that was imported through the United Parcel Service disguised as vitamins.

Yesterday, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas, along with other members of the Drug Enforcement Taskforce, held a press conference to inform

See $300K on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

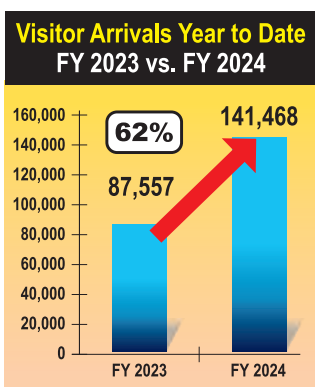
The Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted last week about $300,000 worth of methamphetamine (about 2.9 lbs.) that was imported through the United Parcel Service disguised as vitamins.

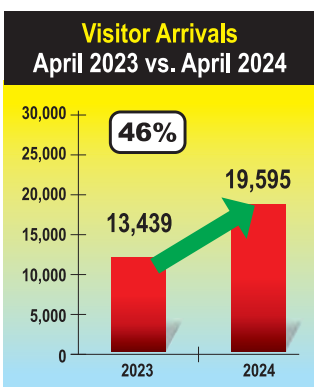
Visitor arrivals up 46% in April

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota grew 46% to 19,595 visitors in April 2024, compared to 13,439 visitors received in April 2023. Monthly arrivals still were 49% lower compared to pre-pandemic levels of April 2019, when arrivals reached 39,663 visitors.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 14,433 in

See VISITOR on Page 4





Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

Fashion model from Rota makes NMI proud in Dubai

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

From walking down the beautiful shores of Rota, to sashaying on one of the longest fashion runways in Asia, a daughter of the NMI continues to represent her home while building a name for herself in the modeling industry.

With her first big debut during the 2023 Vie Fashion Week in Dubai last August, to getting the attention of not just one but three acclaimed modeling agencies, it's just the beginning for Rota's Zahra "Zhee" Frazier as

See FASHION on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Professional model from the NMI Zahra "Zhee" Frazier stuns in a black and gold dress during 2023 Vie Fashion Week at World Trade Center Dubai.

Hofschneider files bill that will grant internet gaming licenses on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has introduced a local bill that will grant internet gaming licenses on Tinian for a period not to exceed 20 years.

See BILL on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The University of Guam conferred degrees last Sunday to 315 graduates at its Fañomnåkan 2024 Commencement Ceremony in the Calvo Field House.

PAGE 9

WORLD

An Israeli airstrike killed 27 people in central Gaza, mostly women and children, and fighting with Hamas raged across the north on Sunday as Israel's leaders aired divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war, now in its eighth month.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

John Krasinski's imaginary friends movie "IF" claimed the top spot at the box office this weekend according to studio estimates Sunday. Its $35 million North American debut was also a bit lower than some projections.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

MVA

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios welcomes travel trade and media representatives to the Marianas Seminar organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority on May 14, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan.

MVA, governor host Marianas Seminar in Tokyo

MVA

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seated third left, leads the Marianas delegation in sharing information about the destination with travel trade and media representatives at the Marianas Seminar organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority on May 14, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan.

Over 70 travel agents, media representatives, and other key industry partners in Japan recently learned the latest destination details about the Marianas at the Marianas Seminar conducted by Marianas Visitors Authority last May 14.

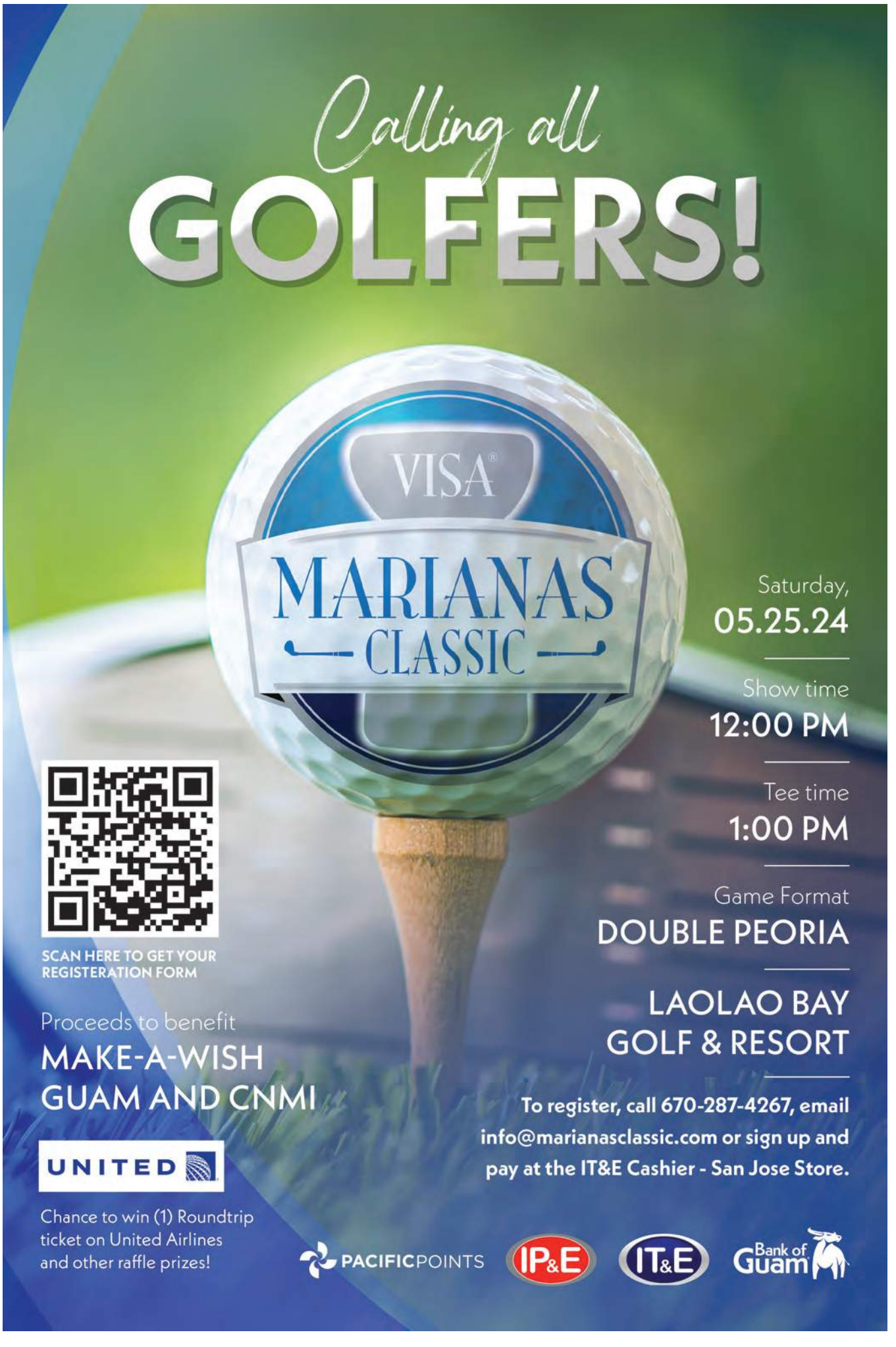
MVA organized the seminar in Tokyo to provide details about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with the goal of generating new Marianas products and new media coverage to attract more Japanese travelers to the destination.

"The Marianas Seminar is an important opportunity for us to meet face-to-face with the travel trade professionals who sell and promote The Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "While trade shows allow us to meet thousands of individuals, our Marinas Seminar also gives our destination the undivided attention of attendees and allows us to answer all their questions and establish and reaffirm important trade relationships."

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios personally welcomed attendees to the seminar. The event covered updates about the market, including flight service; MVA's marketing activities, including its new marketing campaign to be launched tentatively in June focusing on four pillars: Community, Nature, Mindfulness, and Immersive (CNMI). Details were also shared about various promotional campaigns, MVA annual signature events like this month's Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, and new tourism infrastructure such as the Garapan Revitalization Project.

Palacios and MVA representatives were interviewed at the seminar and reception by Marine Creative/Marine Diving Web, Travel Wing, Travel Journal, and Kateigaho.

Direct service from Tokyo to Saipan is provided by United Airlines three times a week. United Airlines also provided two roundtrip airline tickets for a raffle at the seminar. ***(PR)***



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP24-BECQ/DEQ-42400092

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT TRAINING FOR WATER OPERATORS IN THE FIELD OF WATER TREATMENT (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) AND WATER DISTRIBUTION (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL THEREAFTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, BY MAY 29, 2024, TO MR. RICHARD V. SALAS VIA EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DPS responds to 71 incidences from May 5 to 11

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety responded to 71 incidences in the week of May 5 to 11 and made a total of nine arrests.

In the spirit of transparency and as part of its goal to build back its relationship with the community, DPS recently released its police blotter report dated May 5-11.

According to the report, within the period DPS responded to 71 reported incidences.

Specifically, of the 71 incidents, 52 were 911 service calls to the police. In addition, nine arrests were made in this week.

The police blotter details that DPS responded to one assault incident; three assault and battery incidents; three assault with a dangerous weapon incidents; two aggravated assault incidents; three nuisance incidents; three domestic violence incidents; three disturbing the peace incidents; four vandalism incidents; one criminal trespass incident; one illegal possession incident; eight burglary incidents; 15 theft incidents; and two sexual assault incidents.

As for traffic incidents, DPS details that it responded to 10 auto-auto crash incidents; two auto parked vehicle incidents; one auto ran off to roadway incident; and five auto fixed object incidents.

Meanwhile, DPS Boating Safety responded to one distressed vessel incident, and one distressed swimmer/drowning incident.

DPS' police blotter further states that of the nine arrests, two were arrested for sexual assault; three for domestic violence; three for nuisance; one for assault; one for assault with a dangerous weapon; and one for vandalism.

As part of DPS' goals, it issues weekly police blotter reports that detail the number of reports made in the last week, what incidents were reported, and how many arrests were made in that week.

DPS spokesperson Fred Sato previously said the numbers provided based on the blotter reports are calls made to DPS and responses of its officers.

"All active criminal complaints are taken, then forwarded to our Criminal Investigation Bureau. All traffic-related incidents, including fatality reported crashes, are forwarded to our Highway Patrol Investigation units," he said.

NMTECH BOOTCAMP NMC

Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute in partnership with the college's School of Education recently concluded its instructor boot camp for NMTech instructors on May 10, 2024. The NMTech instructors were able to expand their knowledge in areas such as effective teaching skills, teaching tips for high school students, and teaching to adult learners. The instructors who received the certifications are, from left, seated, Eugenio I. Vargas, Jr., Romulo A. Cayetano, Eduardo R. Taruc, and Wendell Posadas. Also in the photo are, from left, standing, NMC, CNMI Area Health Education Center Associate director Les Ogumoro-Uludong, NMC-CDI Program manager Geraldine Sasamoto, NMC SOE associate professor Amanda Diaz, NMC-CDI director Monique Boyer Sablan, and NMC-CDI/AHEC administrative manager Pamela Ada.

HELP PROTECT SEA TURTLES
CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES CNMI
Green and hawksbill sea turtles are listed as Threatened and Endangered and are protected federally under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and locally under CNMI Public Law 02-51.
It is illegal to harass, kill, capture, or collect turtles and their eggs.
10 feet
GO SLOW TURTLES BELOW
BOATERS: DRIVE SLOWLY NEAR REEFS AND HARBORS
DISPOSE OF TRASH PROPERLY
KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN
ALLOW TURTLES TO FEED ON THEIR OWN
LET THEM GRAZE AND HUNT FOR THEIR FOOD INDEPENDENTLY
GIVE TURTLES THEIR SPACE
IF YOU SEE A TURTLE, GIVE IT SPACE AND WATCH FROM AFAR
GREEN SEA TURTLE
Chelonia mydas
Haggan Betde (Chamorro) / Wong Mool (Carolinian)
HAWKSBILL TURTLE
Eretmochelys imbricata
Haggan Karai (Chamorro) / Wong Maaw (Carolinian)
PLEASE REPORT SEA TURTLE STRANDINGS, NESTING, TRACKS, OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO THE CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Department of Lands & Natural Resources
Office of the Secretary of DLNR
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Division of Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Section
(670) 664 / 6000
(670) 287-1126
CNMI Sea Turtle Conservation Program
Anonymous Hotline: (670) 287-8537
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP24-GOV/CIP-42400090
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CUSTOMS & BIOSECURITY OFFICE, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST JUNE 21, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palcios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program, are soliciting sealed proposals for the "Architectural and Engineering Services for the Customs & Biosecurity Office" project in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 21, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service at selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held virtually via Google Meet at **10:00 AM ChST June 5, 2024.** Proposers may request for the invitation via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp. Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST June 12, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than 10:00 AM ChST, June 21, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Elija, Olivia most popular baby names in US Pacific territories

The Social Security Administration recently announced the most popular baby names in American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for 2023.

Olivia and Elijah topped the list.

The top five boys' and girls' names for 2023 in American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands were the following:

Boys

1. Elijah
2. Liam
3. Daniel
4. Ethan
5. Jayden

Girls

1. Olivia
2. Abigail
3. Amelia
4. Kaylee

The agency announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in the U.S. How does American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website—www.ssa.gov—to see the top national baby names for 2023 and see where your name ranks now and over the past 100 years.

Social Security began compiling the baby names list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends. In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2023 and the fastest rising girls' and boys' names.

"Social Security is here to help parents continue to provide for your families – by securing a Social Security number for your child, filing for benefits for yourself or your family members, and so much more. We will never stop working for you." said Social Security Commissioner Martin O'Malley.

Social Security's programs are particularly important for women, who made up 55% of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2023. Women typically have longer life expectancies than men and earn less income over their lifetime due to the combined impact of the gender wage gap, caregiving responsibilities, overrepresentation in low-paid jobs, and more. Social Security also provides critical benefits to 2.6 million children, including nearly one million low-income children with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income benefits. People can visit www.ssa.gov to learn more about how Social Security's expanded digital services make it easier than ever for women and children to access critical benefits and services. ***(PR)***

FASHION

From page 1

she continues down a career path she never dreamed of.

"Honestly that small girl Zhee back on Rota is so different…I had no expectations to become a model," said the 30-year-old fashion model in a conversation with *Saipan Tribune*. "I was thinking I would be discovered at least through singing."

The model shared that her early years spent on Rota included involvement in several island-wide singing and pageants.

"Because I had done more singing than modeling, I was more serious about singing and it seemed that I had more opportunities for singing."

Frazier added that along with doing gigs, during her early teen years, she had begun venturing out more on social media, filming her music on TikTok, at that time called Musically, and began filming several short videos of school performances.

As she entered adulthood, Frazier shared that she still believed music would be her ticket to fame.

"I moved to Saipan after high school, graduating from Rota High School in 2013, and on Saipan I joined the band Mango Sessions and we would perform live at Safehouse and the I Love Saipan. I would also sing at the Paseo de Marianas."

As time passed the singer also took up dance and got involved in several dancing opportunities, one with her best friend at Saipan Studio 29:11, and the other with local Polynesian Dance group, Te'Ivi Maori, where she would regularly perform for tourists and Saipan residents alike.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With the Burj Al Arab behind her, Zahra "Zhee" Frazier shares a smile after obtaining her bachelor's degree in general studies focused in health sciences for allied health from Louisiana State University-Alexandria.

"I think the performing arts has been really in me the whole time," she said.

The model shared that aside from the music, she enjoyed watching modeling shows and doing her own photoshoots.

"It just started with me taking photos and striking poses and doing new and different poses. Again, I was never really serious about it as I was just doing it for fun. I had no proper training for it."

Frazier added that at the time she was attending the Northern Marianas College and studying for a whole different career field.

She graduated with a double major—Associates in Liberal Arts and Associates in Applied Science for Business and Accounting.

It was Frazier's peers on Rota and Saipan that first saw her modelling potential and suggested she pursue a modeling career.

"People began encouraging me and saying 'you know you have it in you,' and I would just say 'this is me joking around!'" she said

But in 2019, Frazier decided to give it a shot.

As part Filipino, Frazier moved to the Philippines to try her luck there, trying out for castings in the *Pinoy Big Brother*, Miss Universe Philippines, and many other opportunities, but experiencing one rejection after another. Frazier said that after an unsuccessful year, the COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a screeching halt as the Philippines underwent strict lockdown. After the Philippines reopened, the model said she felt there weren't any opportunities for her there.

"I feel like there's a stigma and a misconception on modeling. A lot of people think it's just about glamor, makeup, walking on runways, modeling, but no! What they see in shows like *Asia's Next Top Model* it's similar, but it's definitely more aggressive and competitive than it looks."

Frazier shared that she took the time spent in the Philippines as a well-needed break, noting that she also learned more about her ethnicity during the sabbatical.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

$300K

From page 1

the public that about $300,000 worth of meth (or about 2.9 lbs.) was intercepted last May 14 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's cargo area.

These drugs, Mafnas shared, were strategically disguised as packets of powdered vitamin C as well as multivitamin capsules hidden inside One-A-Day vitamin bottles that were sealed to look as if they were unopened.

"Last May 14, at around 11am at cargo area of the Saipan International Airport, Customs conducted a routine search of packages that were coming in as cargo. In this specific case, UPS' cargo. During the inspection, a Customs officer came across a brown box and after further inspection, he noticed that the contents of the vitamins C packets felt different. So, when he opened one of the packets, he discovered what looked like crystal meth. He proceeded to open vitamin bottles that were also inside the package that contained capsules and when he opened them, he realized that they were filled with what seemed to be crystal meth," he said.

"In total, the meth found was about 2.9 lbs. With the estimated street value being around $150-$160 per gram, the imported meth is valued at around $300,000 more or less," Mafnas added.

When asked why the press conference was called six days after the drugs were intercepted, Mafnas explained that initially he and the taskforce wanted to call a press conference once the suspect had been arrested, however, the case is still pending.

Mafnas added that because the case is pending, he could not divulge much information on the suspect.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, who heads the DETF, shared that although no arrest has been made as of press time, DPS is working diligently on the case.

"To let the community know, we are still going after the people who are responsible of this. It's a community concern. We are taking this very seriously. This is a joint effort. We will diligently continue to enforce our laws especially interjecting these drugs that could end up in the community. We are doing everything we can to stop these activities of importing these drugs to our island because it ruins families and ruins the reputation of the Commonwealth," he said.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, who is also part of the taskforce, shared that he and his department are thankful for the work that Customs has done in the fight against drugs.

"I thank all officers who were involved in this bust. Their actions undoubtedly saved lives and disrupted criminal activities that seek to undermine the safety of our community. For that, we are very grateful, and we will continue to aid in this war against drugs," he said.

VISITOR

From page 1

April, 29% higher than April 2023. Direct flight service is provided to Saipan from Seoul by T'way, Asiana Airlines, and Jeju Air. With the MVA's continued emphasis on the Marianas as a multi-island destination, several travel agencies have stepped up their promotion of Rota and Tinian. My Real Trip has launched travel packages to Rota for 1 night/2 days or 2 nights/3 days, and other travel agencies are also introducing new Tinian products that add value to and expand travel experiences in the Marianas.

Visitor arrivals from Japan registered 542 in April 2024 compared to 479 visitors in April 2023. As the Japanese yen is weaker against most foreign currencies, domestic travel remains a popular choice. Beginning May 7, United Airlines started a new, more convenient flight schedule between Tokyo and Saipan, a move anticipated to help nudge up arrivals from Japan. However, the strong U.S. dollar and weaker Japanese yen and Korean won continue to influence travelers from those countries to choose non-U.S. destinations at this time.

China arrivals in April 2024 reached 1,450 compared to 164 arrivals in April 2023. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Hong Kong Airlines commenced twice weekly direct flights from Hong Kong to Saipan on April 28, 2024, the first direct flights to the Marianas since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, the Marianas also received 986 visitors from Guam, 1,672 visitors from the United States, and a combined 512 visitors from all other markets. ***(PR)***

BILL

From page 1

Hofschneider's Senate Local Bill No. 23-05 will amend the Commonwealth Code to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming.

Hofschneider stated in the legislation that the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation finds that in the interest of promoting the Tinian gaming industry, it is lawful and necessary to amend the statute in order to be globally competitive and compliant with U.S. federal laws and regulations.

Under Local Bill No. 23-05, the conduct of internet gaming pursuant to an internet gaming license and the regulations established by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to regulate internet gaming is lawful.

Operating internet gaming is conditioned on the implementation of age verification software reasonably designed to block access to minors.

The implementation of a geolocation software limiting internet gaming activities to within intra-island borders of the Second Senatorial District (Tinian and Aguiguan) and between jurisdiction where the conduct of internet gaming is not prohibited by law.

The commission is not limited in the number of internet gaming licenses that it may grant.

SSHS Manta Ray Battalion conducts annual change of command ceremony

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Manta Ray Battalion cadets with Saipan Southern High School officials and guests.

By C/1LT NIANA MAD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

A change of command is a military tradition that signifies the seamless transition of full authority and responsibility from one commanding officer to another.

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion conducted its annual change of command and promotion ceremony for the incoming battalion commander last May 17 from 9:30am to 10am.

The Manta Ray Battalion was in a formation in front of Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Monument. The ceremony started with the battalion color guard presenting the colors while the national and CNMI anthems were sung by the Manta Music Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The promotion of the incoming battalion commander C/LTC Riana Vicente by the Saipan CSM (ret.) Richard Basa and her mother.

The newly promoted battalion commander, C/LTC Riana Vicente, received the colors after passing through the C/CSM John Brondo, the outgoing commander, C/LTC Mechaella De Ramos, and the SSHS principal Vince Dela Cruz.

The change of command ceremony commemorated the outgoing battalion commander, De Ramos, relinquishing her position to the incoming battalion commander, Vicente.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Incoming battalion commander C/LTC Riana Vicente along with family and SSHS officials.

De Ramos was given a plaque recognizing her dedication, commitment, and strong leadership skills while she commanded the Manta Ray Battalion during SY 2023-2024.

Her successor, Vicente, will be the next to light the way for the Manta Ray Battalion into an aspiring path for the SY 2024-2025.

Both outgoing and incoming battalion commanders celebrated the occasion by cutting a cake shared with the other cadets.

The incoming Manta Ray officers would like thank the incoming battalion commander's parents for attending this memorable occasion. They also like to thank Dela Cruz, SSHS vice principal Arisa Sakai-Peters, and FMS principal Cherlyn Osung for constantly supporting and guiding the cadets.

The Manta Ray Battalion's Senior Army Instructor, CSM (Ret.) Richard Basa recognized the incoming SY 2024-2025 staff and celebrated with the cadets and student leaders who supported the Mighty Manta Ray Battalion.

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024 **Closing date: June 5, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY**

Position(s):

(1) Staff Engineer **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

(1) STAFF ATTORNEY **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

(1) COMPTROLLER **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 101

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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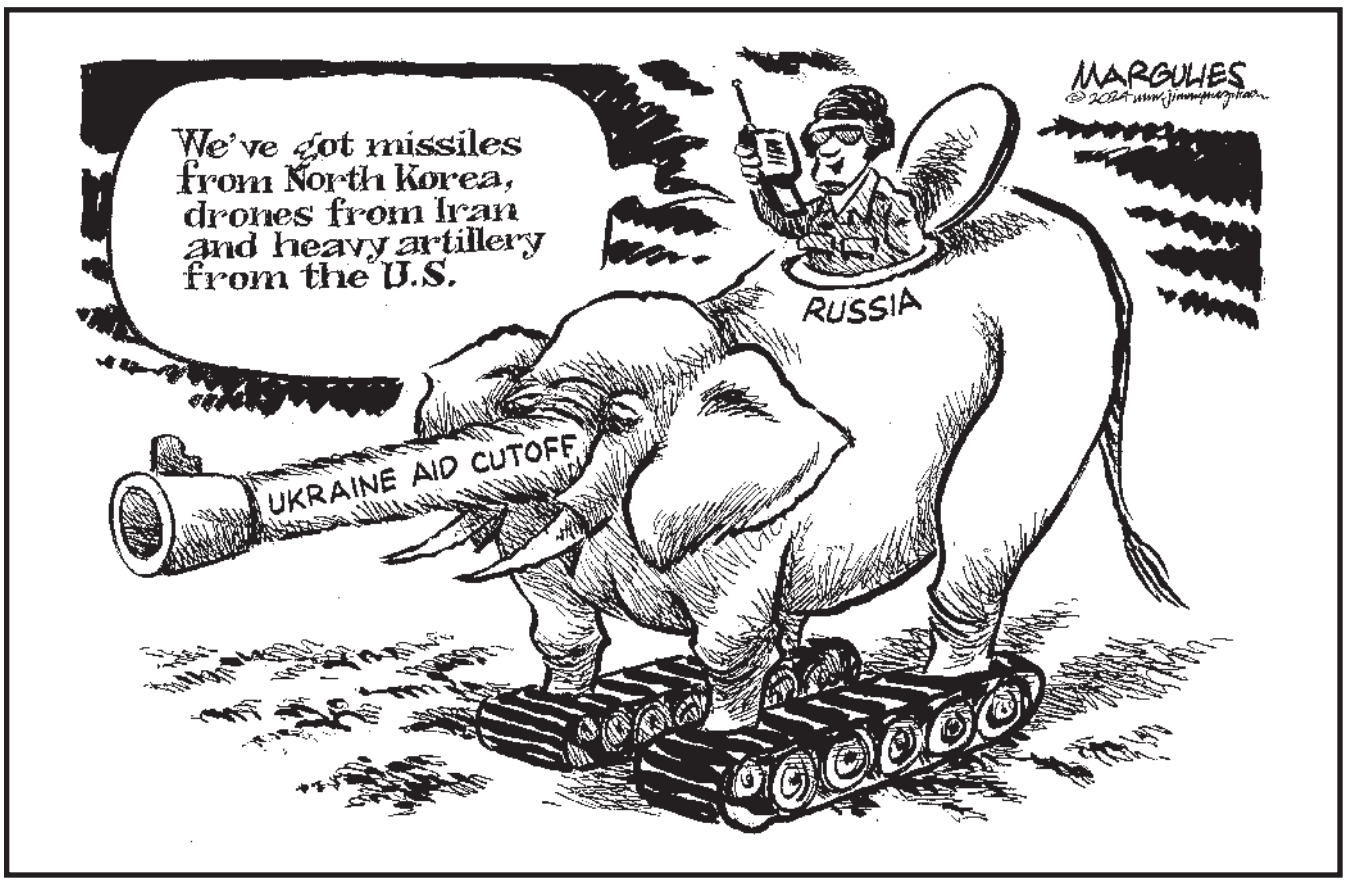

We've got missiles from North Korea, drones from Iran and heavy artillery from the U.S.
RUSSIA
UKRAINE AID CUTOFF
MARGULIES

EDITORIAL

You won't like Trumponomics 2.0

Whoever wins November's election, inflation will present them with an immediate challenge. More than two years after the Federal Reserve started raising interest rates to alleviate a pandemic-era price spike, the so-called core consumer price index remains well above the central bank's target. It's a bit puzzling, then, that former President Donald Trump's economic agenda seems to be dedicated to raising prices.

What policies would a second Trump administration pursue? The former president hasn't been a model of clarity on the campaign trail, but some general themes have emerged.

Tariffs, one of Trump's only consistent enthusiasms, are a sure thing. Starting in 2018, his administration imposed several rounds of duties, prompting predictable retaliation. Combined, these measures eliminated jobs, slashed incomes and cost consumers about $51 billion annually. Now Trump wants to impose tariffs of 60% on Chinese-made products and 10% on other imports. Bloomberg Economics estimates that this would raise consumer prices by 2.5% over two years and reduce growth by 0.5%. Trump has also promised a 100% duty on imported cars. Details TBD—one analyst describes the likely effect as "catastrophic"—but the point is that trade wars of this kind are always prone to raising prices.

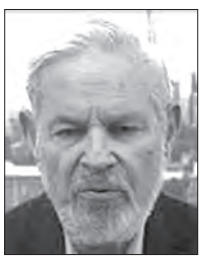
Trump's plans for monetary policy pose a similar risk. According to media reports, his advisers are laying the groundwork for the president to weigh in directly on interest-rate decisions. (His campaign has vaguely disputed these reports.) The rationale for central-bank independence—among the most successful policy innovations of the post-war era—is that politicized monetary policy will tend to have a pro-inflationary bias. In this case, a self-fulfilling prophecy is likely: Consumers and businesses, expecting the Fed to tolerate higher inflation under Trump, will behave in ways that (once again) boost prices.

More directly, the former president is toying with devaluing the dollar. Although the hope is to revive domestic manufacturing, exactly how he'd carry out this plan isn't clear. (Like many products of Trump World, it seems to be premised on a lot of needless belligerence.) On balance, such manipulation is likely to invite retaliation, erode faith in the dollar and do little to actually boost exports. By raising the cost of imported goods and inputs for domestic producers, it would also (perhaps you've sensed a pattern) increase prices.

Trump's tax plans, finally, would tend in the same direction. He says he'll extend the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and has at times mused about a further reduction in the corporate rate, to 15% from 21%. Recall that the drafters of the law tied themselves in knots to avoid acknowledging its true costs (hence the expirations). Extending it in full would cost about $3.8 trillion by 2033. A 15% corporate rate would cost perhaps a half-trillion more. Trump's plans for further tax cuts—"I'll give you a Trump middle class, upper class, lower class, business class big tax cut," he said at a rally on Saturday—remain rather nebulous, but fiscal discipline does not sound like the governing priority.

See YOU on Page 7

When it comes to Russia, containment still isn't enough



By JOHN E. RIELLY AND RICHARD BABCOCK
Chicago Tribune

John E. Rielly is emeritus president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and author of the forthcoming memoir "My Foreign Affairs." Richard Babcock, former editor of Chicago *magazine, is a novelist.*

The document that largely defined American foreign policy through the Cold War years was written anonymously by a prickly and melancholic Midwesterner who spent much of the rest of his life disavowing the repercussions of his work.

George F. Kennan, a State Department expert on Soviet Russia, published an article in the July 1947 issue of Foreign Affairs but signed it "X" because of his government role. The article famously called for the "containment" of Soviet expansion, urging the United States and the West to "confront the Russians with unalterable counter-force at every point where they show signs of encroaching upon the interests of a peaceful and stable world."

The containment principle, as subsequently interpreted, produced strategies and actions ranging from the Marshall Plan to the covert activities of the CIA to the disastrous Vietnam War. At the same time, containment put unrelenting pressure on the Soviet Union and arguably led eventually to the internal collapse of the clumsy and ossified Soviet government — an outcome Kennan predicted.

Almost immediately after publication of the article, Kennan realized that his prescription lacked specificity. He'd meant to suggest that the spearhead of containment should be political and economic, not military, and that the concern with Soviet expansion should focus on Europe, not the entire world. When his successor at the State Department, Paul Nitze, globalized containment in National Security Council Paper No. 68 and provided a rationale for the Truman Doctrine—which promised an American response to any communist threat—Kennan loudly protested in vain. For decades he inveighed against the misuse of containment, notoriously during the Vietnam War.

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, talk of containment has resurfaced. One school of thought argues that this latest manifestation of Russian expansionist desires must be fiercely opposed. Another, drawing on comments made by Kennan himself, suggests that the expansion of NATO led to the invasion by provoking Russia's historic paranoia about its borders.

But Kennan, who died in 2005, recognized that containment alone isn't enough. At the conclusion of the X article, Kennan turns his attention from the character of the Soviet Union to the character of the United States and makes an entirely different point — one that's often overlooked and that remains profoundly relevant. To be an architect of peace and stability around the globe, Kennan wrote, America must "create among the peoples of the world generally the impression of a country which knows what it wants, which is coping successfully with the problems of its internal life and with the responsibilities of a World Power, and which has a spiritual vitality capable of holding its own among the major ideological currents of the time."

With those words, Kennan could be speaking to all Americans today. We would do well to listen.

As historian John Lewis Gaddis makes clear in his acclaimed Kennan biography, his subject was a curious mixture. Kennan was a lonely child whose mother died shortly after his birth, a difficult colleague and frustrated diplomat, an elitist more at home in another century and a pessimist at heart. He abhorred the messianism ascribed to President Woodrow Wilson that dominated American foreign policy for several decades after World War I. As much as Kennan despised the Stalinist regime, he loved the Russian people, and he astutely analyzed that the communist government held "within it the seeds of its own decay."

U.S. diplomat and historian George F. Kennan is sworn in as ambassador to the Soviet Union by Raymond Muir, as Kennan's wife and daughter look on in 1952. (Hulton Archive) In the X article, he warned against letting similar seeds take root in American soil. He'd witnessed how "exhibitions of indecision, disunity and internal disintegration" in the United States produced a "new jauntiness" in "the Moscow tread."

Today, America's enemies around the globe are no doubt treading with the same jauntiness as the country fractures into factions and is immobilized by polarization.

In the X article, Kennan's simple advice to his native land was to "measure up to its own best traditions." The specter of nuclear annihilation loomed only dimly in his thoughts, but Kennan recognized that competition with Soviet totalitarianism held immeasurable risks. Still, he looked at the Soviet menace as a "test of the overall worth of the United States as a nation among nations." Providence, he wrote, had provided "the American people with this implacable challenge, has made their entire security as a nation dependent on their pulling themselves together and accepting the responsibilities of moral and political leadership that history plainly intended them to bear."

Seventy-seven years after Kennan wrote those words, they have never been more on the mark.

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When Biden and Trump agree, consumers should worry

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson University College of Business & Behavioral Science, and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.

Joe Biden and Donald Trump agree on at least one thing. I know what you're probably thinking: a little more consensus might be good for the country. But when we're talking about both major presidential candidates calling to limit the flow of goods to U.S. consumers, shouldn't we be worried? Each has been touting trade policies that could lead to even higher prices, another challenge to an already stressed Federal Reserve, and slower growth for the country.

Couched broadly in terms of countering China's aggressive efforts to stimulate its industrial economy, Biden and Trump want wide-ranging higher tariffs on that nation's electric vehicles and other products. Relatedly, both express concerns about maintaining American manufacturing muscle for national security purposes and gaining a more favorable outcome from the ongoing leadership struggle among the world's great powers.

The fact that we're now hearing essentially the same protectionist appeals from the presumed candidates from both major political parties is new and worrisome.

That's not to say that calls from one candidate or another to pull up the gang plank, raise prices, and reduce the movement of goods and people from elsewhere to our shores are unfamiliar. It's especially common during "crazy season," when aspiring political candidates try to outdo each other before an election. When it comes to where goods and services will be produced, union workers and most other people generally prefer less competition from abroad.

Here's where economics and politics diverge. Nationalism may attract a meaningful political following, but higher tariffs mean higher prices for the directly affected goods and even more widespread price effects later. A substantial, conclusive body of research tells us as much. Along with the higher prices on imported goods, we should be aware that tariffs are shown to lead to slower economic growth. This is the last thing we should want for an economy that's been skirting a recession.

So, what about ordinary consumers? Don't they matter?

Somehow the voices of inflation-weary American consumers no longer seem to be heard when Chinese goods enter the picture. Moreover, lots of people who lack economics degrees understandably don't realize what protectionism does to their pocketbooks. Neither major political party apparently cares about telling them, or protecting the ability of these individuals to, unencumbered by a Big Brother government, make real marketplace choices about which cars to buy, which shoes to wear or which services to obtain.

Instead, our politicians speak as though the decisions we make while shopping for ourselves and our families are mostly about favoring one country or another. Even after years of supply-chain interruptions, high inflation and resulting high interest rates stretching millions of budgets, they strangely refuse to recognize that international competition helps the American voter and consumer, or that there is something American about being free to choose.

Yes, there are global issues to worry about, and some consumers may willingly show a preference for the national origin of the goods they buy. More often than not, though, they are choosing between products and prices. If, then, there is to be a major political debate regarding whether to discourage the movement of goods and services across national boundaries by artificially raising those prices, consumers need to hear all of the facts and have a voice in the matter.

At one time, in a program I coordinated as its executive director, the Federal Trade Commission actively intervened in proceedings before other federal regulatory agencies to advocate for consumers. Where is the FTC now, when their voice is needed?

An analysis of consumer wellbeing—yours and mine—should also accompany any White House effort to mandate price increases. After all, the Fed's constantly discussed, ongoing effort to put a squeeze on inflation, which has been aptly described as a tightrope walker's challenge, is far from over.

Any further emergence of higher prices becoming embedded in the Consumer Price Index could send a troubled signal to the Fed and cause it to renew its commitment to higher interest rates. This and any tariff-induced slowdown could finally tip the scales toward recession.

With the economy still in limbo, we consumers deserve a real choice about what happens next.

The Supreme Court's conservatives onstage, unplugged and unrepentant

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

It's that time of year when the life-tenured denizens of America's imperial court, otherwise known as the Supreme Court, come down from their bench to mix with the masses.

Just kidding. The justices limit their appearances to friendly audiences, to elite folks too well-mannered to ask them about matters like gifts from billionaires with business before the court or misleading confirmation testimony to the Senate.

With oral arguments for this term's cases ended in late April, the justices are now writing the decisions that will trickle out through June, including on whether to withhold gun rights from domestic abusers; limit access to mifepristone, the pill used for two-thirds of abortions; gut federal agencies' regulatory power; and immunize Donald Trump from criminal prosecution. Amid their opinion-writing, they accept a few invitations to speak, cracking a window into their thinking as well as their gripes.

Four of the court's six-member conservative supermajority were on the stump in recent days. Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett M. Kavanaugh spoke to groups of lawyers and judges in the congenial South. Samuel A. Alito Jr., one of the court's six Catholics, was commencement speaker at "passionately Catholic" Franciscan University of Steubenville, in Ohio. And Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. gave a purposely anodyne address to a Washington-based judicial group.

The other three were more interesting. Kavanaugh defensively suggested that the unpopular court's unpopular decisions—ending a half-century of abortion rights, for example—would be seen more favorably with time. Thomas whined to a sympathetic crowd about "the nastiness and lies" in the news media about himself and his would-be insurrectionist wife, Ginni; much of that coverage recently won a Pulitzer Prize for ProPublica. And Alito enjoyed a standing ovation when he was introduced as the author of the 2022 Dobbs antiabortion ruling, despite overwhelming opposition to it nationwide.

Kavanaugh spoke last Friday in Austin, Texas. The city is a progressive oasis in the red state, but Kavanaugh appeared before judges, attorneys and court officials connected with the most conservative of the federal appeals courts, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, covering Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. At a time when the Supreme Court is polling at record lows on job approval and public trust, Kavanaugh was appropriately asked during a question-and-answer session how to boost confidence in the judiciary.

He didn't seem to see the problem. Instead Kavanaugh blithely compared the current Roberts court — which has greatly expanded rights for gun owners, police and corporations, limited those for voters, consumers and women, and eroded the wall between church and state—to the court of the 1950s and 1960s led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, whose landmark rulings desegregated public schools, expanded voting and other civil rights, ended mandatory Christian prayer in schools and established new rights for criminal defendants.

The Warren court's decisions were "unpopular basically from start to finish," Kavanaugh said. And yet "a lot of them are landmarks now that we accept as parts of the fabric of America."

He's right about the Warren court legacy. But Kavanaugh is kidding himself if he thinks that Dobbs and other decisions that he has backed will eventually gain widespread favor. The Warren court is remembered for expanding individuals' constitutional rights; the Roberts court, in overturning Roe, is the first to take one away. (Kavanaugh's support for Dobbs provoked Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the decisive vote for his confirmation, to complain that he'd "misled" her during the Senate's consideration of his nomination.)

Thomas spoke the same day at a conference of the conservative U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, covering Georgia, Florida and Alabama. His most noteworthy remarks reflected the Roberts court's other legacy: ethical indifference. The event was held at a luxury resort on Alabama's Gulf Coast, appropriate given Thomas' affinity for such places, which has been well documented by ProPublica and other media. Republican donor and billionaire Harlan Crow provided Thomas with yacht trips, real estate deals and other benefits.

Also appropriately, Thomas was with his wife, Ginni, who not only shared the largesse but also is central to Thomas' other ethical transgression. She worked behind the scenes to overturn Joe Biden's 2020 election, yet Thomas has refused to recuse himself from three cases before the court dealing with Jan. 6 and Trump's role in conniving to stay in power.

To hear Thomas tell it, the problem isn't his conflicts of interest but the critics and we journalists who report on him. "Especially in Washington, people pride themselves in being awful," he said.

And that's why he and Ginni like RV-ing across the country to see "regular people." Thomas didn't mention that an investigation by the New York Times found that his luxury 40-foot motor home was underwritten by another rich pal.

Alito, another billionaire's beneficiary, received an honorary degree in Christian ethics on Saturday at Franciscan University. Like Thomas, he groused about his critics; fittingly, he quoted Rodney "I don't get no respect" Dangerfield. Alito has become known for fussing that Christian conservatives get no respect, even as he and other conservative Catholics dominate the court. Free exercise of religion is "a disfavored right," he's carped in the past, and "you can't say that marriage is a union between one man and one woman."

In that spirit, Alito warned the Franciscan grads, "When you venture out into the world, you may find yourself in a job or a community or a social setting when you will be pressured to endorse ideas you don't believe or to abandon core beliefs. It will be up to you to stand firm."

God knows he does. And so do Thomas and Kavanaugh. The rest of us, the masses, are worse off for their supreme myopia.

YOU

From page 6

It's safe to say (at risk of repetition) that these policies, too, will contribute to higher prices.

Some caveats are in order. Trump doesn't always mean what he says. He rarely gets what he wants from subordinates. Many of these policies may never come into effect, or may be partly neutralized by the Fed if they do. But what do you get, all else equal, when you add much higher tariffs, a politicized central bank, a deliberately weakened currency and an enormous surge in public borrowing, at a time of already-elevated inflation?

It would be best to not find out.

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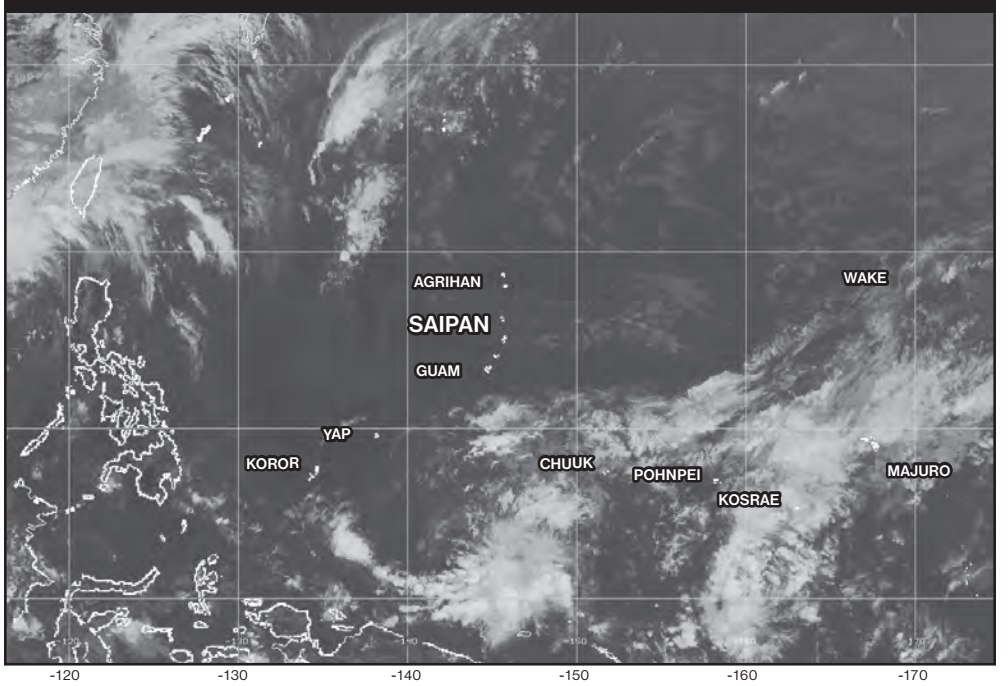
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 79°	88° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:47 AM MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing partly cloudy skies with isolated showers for the Marianas. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 6 to 8 feet in the coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:49 AM	4:41 PM
Wednesday	-	4:26 AM	5:32 PM
Thursday	-	5:07 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	-	5:53 AM	7:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:45 AM	8:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	62° / 48°
Beijing	Fair	78° / 60°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 66°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 57°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 77°
New York	Sunny	54° / 40°
Osaka	Rain	66° / 55°
Paris	Sunny	73° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Rome	Rain	63° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	54° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:33 AM	High Tide	1.92
12:36 PM	Low Tide	0.25
7:23 PM	High Tide	1.80
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

315 earn degrees at UOG commencement

UOG

University of Guam president Anita Borja Enriquez applauds the 319 graduates from the commencement stage on May 19 at the Calvo Field House.

UOG

Hunter Sidell, co-valedictorian of the University of Guam Class of Fañomnåkan 2024, delivers the class address at commencement on May 19 in the Calvo Field House.

The University of Guam conferred degrees last Sunday to 315 graduates at its Fañomnåkan 2024 Commencement Ceremony in the Calvo Field House.

Of 269 bachelor's degrees conferred—a 15% increase from last spring—the largest programs were business administration, biology, primarily in the bio-medical track, and nursing, the latter with a near-record number of 31 graduates. Of 46 master's degrees conferred, the largest program was the Master of Arts in Teaching for secondary education with 17 graduates.

UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez acknowledged that this graduating class endured Typhoon Mawar, the pandemic—many who missed out on their high school graduation ceremonies—along with personal struggles. "But we exercised our island cultural strengths of community, faith, and resilience—our minesgnon—to ensure comfort and safety across our flotilla of canoes to get us through these challenges," she said.

Trends and highlights

This commencement includes several firsts and highlights:

■ The Health Science Program conferred a record number of degrees, doubling its average, with 41 total for the academic year. The graduates are primarily in the public health concentration with nearly equal numbers in the pre-physical therapy and exercise science concentrations. School of Health Dean Yvette Paulino said many of these graduates are planning to pursue an advanced degree in occupational therapy.

■ Nine Bachelor of Social Work alumni from UOG earned their Master of Social Work through a partnership program between UOG and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since 2012, the partnership has produced 45 graduates, who work within the region in an administrative capacity for agencies and organizations that assist the vulnerable.

■ The cooperative 2+2 Computer Science Program between UOG and Guam Community College, launched in 2019 to elevate the level of IT education in the region, had its first seven graduates cross the stage. Students in the program complete a two-year associate degree at GCC, then transfer to UOG for two years to complete advanced level courses and earn a bachelor's.

Hattori: Use the best parts of your culture to make the world a better place

Mary Therese Perez Hattori, a daughter of Guam who now serves as director of the Pacific Islands Development Program of the East-West Center in Honolulu, delivered the commencement address. With a doctorate in education, she has focused her academic work on culturally sustaining education and leadership, leadership development, and indigenous research methodologies.

She shared her struggle to adapt culturally when she moved from Guam to Hawaii to attend college in 1989. She said the Western values of individual achievement, competition, status, and material wealth were not compatible with her CHamoru values.

"I needed to find academic programs, jobs, and careers that allowed me to honor the CHamoru cultural values of knowledge being used to serve others—and using learning to improve life—before my pathway was clear," she said.

She said one practice that Pacific Islanders can model for the benefit of others is inclusion and creating a sense of belonging. "I was taught that there is no need to earn a place in your family or community. Each person is a valued member of society simply by virtue of being born," she said.

She challenged the graduates to model Pacific Islander ways, wisdom, and values to help an American culture that is materially rich yet suffers a poverty of spirit and relationships.

Valedictorian: Far better things ahead than any we leave behind

Two students were selected as class valedictorians, both under the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences: Hunter Sidell, a philosophy major, and Lidio Fullo, a psychology major with a military science minor.

Sidell delivered the class address, sharing how he lost his way while attending high school in Washington after a series of setbacks. Then his dad, who was living in Guam, invited him to move to island for a fresh start at finding his purpose.

"I was immediately struck by everyone's exceptional hospitality and the strong sense of community and mutual support for one another. "[It] made me feel not just welcomed, but truly embraced as part of the community," he said.

Seeing Guam's need for medical professionals has given Sidell a renewed purpose. He has taken the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), scoring in the top 92%, and now plans to apply to medical schools and one day return to Guam as a physician.

Sidell concluded by encouraging his fellow graduates to not fear failure. "There are far, far, better things ahead than any we leave behind," he said.

Fullo found his purpose as an undergraduate at UOG as well. He joined the Army ROTC program after coming to the conclusion that the world's greatest problem was poor leadership.

"If the problem in this world and its future is poor leadership, then I feel a sense of duty to become the leader of leaders," he said.

Fullo excelled as an ROTC cadet and was named a Distinguished Military Graduate—a designation given to the top 20% of Army ROTC graduates nationwide based on scholarship, character, aptitude, and demonstrated leadership. He will soon head to Georgia to complete the Signal Basic Officer Leader Course and serve as an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Board of Regents awards honorary degree

The UOG Board of Regents bestowed a special honorary Doctor of Business Management upon Paul Yin-lien Chen, former director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and now a representative of the Taipei Trade Office in Fiji. Honorary degrees are awarded to individuals who embody the values of the university and who have made significant contributions to UOG and the community. ***(PR)***

UOG

Lidio Fullo, co-valedictorian of the University of Guam Class of Fañomnåkan 2024, stands by the UOG mural outside the Calvo Field House before the commencement ceremony on May 19. Fullo also was named a Distinguished Military Graduate among Army ROTC graduates nationwide.

World

Airstrike kills 27 in central Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—An Israeli airstrike killed 27 people in central Gaza, mostly women and children, and fighting with Hamas raged across the north on Sunday as Israel's leaders aired divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war, now in its eighth month.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces criticism from

» Fighting rages as Israel's leaders are increasingly divided

the other members of his War Cabinet, with main political rival Benny Gantz threatening to leave the government if a plan is not created by June 8 that includes an international administration for postwar Gaza. His departure would leave Netanyahu more reliant on far-right allies who support full military occupation of Gaza and rebuilding of Jewish settlements there.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met with Netanyahu to discuss an ambitious U.S. plan for Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel and help the Palestinian Authority govern Gaza in exchange for a path to eventual statehood. Netanyahu's office in a statement said they focused on Israel's military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, humanitarian aid and hostages held in Gaza.

Netanyahu opposes Palestinian statehood, saying Israel will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza and partner with local Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas or the Western-backed Palestinian Authority.

The U.S. said Sullivan said Israel should "connect its military operations to a political strategy" and proposed measures to ensure more aid "surges" into Gaza.

In recent weeks, Hamas militants have regrouped in parts of northern Gaza that were heavily bombed in the war's early days.

The airstrike in Nuseirat, a built-up Palestinian refugee camp in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, killed 27 people, including 10 women and seven children, according to records at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah, which received the bodies.

A Beautiful Soul, A Constant Love

†Margarita Castro Sablan

Fondly known as "Maggie"
April 20, 1951 – May 12, 2024

In Margarita's New Life, she is greeted and welcomed by her:
Father: †Nicolas Torres Sablan
Mother: †Josepha Castro Sablan
Brothers: †Herman Castro Santos
†Jose Castro Santos
†Ricardo Camacho Castro
†Edward Castro Sablan
Sisters: †Maria Castro Santos
†Remedio Castro Sablan

Margarita's love and memories will forever live in the hearts of her Daughter, Son-in-Law, Grandchildren, and Godchildren:

Daughter: Leilani Mei Roxanne Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Son-in-Law: Shawn Ignatius Camacho Deleon Guerrero
Grandchildren: Austin Raziel Tyler Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Alexander James Michael Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Airie Nicole Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Ace Corbin Eriu Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Godchildren: Glen Palacios
Lareina C. Camacho
Victoria M. Apatang

Brothers and Sister In-Law and their Families:

†Jose & **Maria S.** Sablan
†**Herman C.** & Rita C. Santos
†**Ricardo C.** & †Maria C. Castro
David C. & Remedio R. Sablan
Nicolas C. & Lucy T. Sablan
George C. & Bernadita A. Sablan
Rudy C. & Elphidia B. Sablan
Vicente C. & Lynn T. Sablan
Ramon C. & Victoria C. Sablan

Caregiver: Jovita Peralta

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Rosary and Mass for the repose soul of Margarita is offered daily at the San Roque Church at 5:30 p.m. followed by the 6:00 p.m. mass.

Funeral services and last respects for our beloved Margarita will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Chapel at 8:00 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at the San Roque Church, followed by the Rite of Committal at the San Roque Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts and kindness,
THANK YOU and SI YU'US MA'ASE.

The Children and Families of †Margarita Castro Sablan

WORLD BRIEFS

Taiwan's new President Lai urges China to stop its military intimidation

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te in his inauguration speech has urged China to stop its military intimidation against the self-governed island Beijing claims as its own territory. "Fellow compatriots, we have the ideal of pursuing peace, but we must not have illusions," Lai said after being sworn into office. "As China has not yet given up its use of force to invade Taiwan, we should understand that even if we fully accept China's proposition and give up our sovereignty, China's attempt to annex Taiwan will not disappear." He takes over from Tsai Ing-wen, who led Taiwan through eight years of economic and social development despite the COVID-19 pandemic and China's escalating military threats. Thousands of people gathered in front of the Presidential Office Building in Taipei for the inauguration ceremony. Donning white bucket hats, the attendees watched on large screens the ceremony's emcees narrating Lai's swearing-in ceremony, followed by a military march and colorful artistic performances featuring folk dancers, opera performers and rappers. Military helicopters flew in formation, carrying Taiwan's flag.

At least 11 killed as Russia presses forward with its offensive in northeastern Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—At least 11 people were reported killed in attacks in Ukraine's war-ravaged northeast on Sunday as Russia pushed ahead with its renewed offensive. In the Kharkiv region, the focus of the offensive, the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office said six people were killed and 27 wounded in a Russian strike on the outskirts of the regional capital, also called Kharkiv. Regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said that five more people were killed and nine wounded in an attack on the region's Kupiansk district, southeast of the regional capital. Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that its forces in the area were "continuing to advance into the depths of the enemy's defense." Ukraine's General Staff said Russia had stepped up its attacks around Kharkiv and that the situation was "dynamic." Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv region late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners.

Iran's foreign minister dies in helicopter crash

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, a hard-liner close to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard who confronted the West while also overseeing indirect talks with the U.S. over the country's nuclear program, died in the helicopter crash that also killed the country's president, state media reported Monday. He was 60. Amirabdollahian represented the hard-line shift in Iran after the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers after then-U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord. He served under President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and followed their policies. However, Amirabdollahian also was involved in efforts to reach a détente with regional rival Saudi Arabia in 2023, a move eclipsed months later by tensions that arose over the Israel-Hamas war. But he remained close to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, once praising the late Gen. Qassem Soleimani, slain in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad in 2020.

Life & Style

John Krasinski's 'IF' hits a box office nerve with $35 million debut

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

John Krasinski's imaginary friends movie "IF" claimed the top spot at the box office this weekend according to studio estimates Sunday. Its $35 million North American debut was also a bit lower than some projections.

Is that a disappointment? An ominous sign of the box office times? Or is the final story on "IF " yet to be written? It's not just your imagination: In these bumpy early weeks of the 2024 summer box office season, in which nothing has been a runaway hit and every new movie has more and more pressure to succeed, "IF" hit a nerve.

Starring Ryan Reynolds, Cailey Fleming, and an army of A-list voices including Steve Carell, Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Louis Gossett Jr., Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Maya Rudolph, "IF" was an original idea from Krasinski, who wrote, directed and co-stars.

Paramount debuted the film, which cost a reported $110 million to produce, in 4,041 locations in North America. Internationally, it earned an estimated $20 million from 56 markets, adding up to a $55 million global debut.

"Families came out in force and they loved the film," said Chris Aronson, who heads Paramount's domestic distribution.

There are several somewhat contradictory narratives swirling around its performance as well. With its PG-rating, "IF" was the first major family friendly film to open in theaters in weeks. And unlike a front-loaded superhero or horror movie, family pics are often running a marathon not a sprint. Last June, Pixar's "Elemental" was assumed to be dead on arrival when it opened with $29.5 million domestically. But it continued earning throughout the summer and ultimately made nearly $500 million globally.

AP

Cailey Fleming, left, and John Krasinski pose with the character "Blue" at the premiere of Paramount Pictures' "IF" at the SVA Theatre on Monday, May 13, 2024, in New York.

"IF" got middling reviews from critics (it's currently sitting at a "rotten" 49% on Rotten Tomatoes), but, as with "Elemental," audiences gave it a solid A CinemaScore this weekend. The studio considers it a successful debut and is optimistic about its longevity as summer actually begins for school age children.

"I think it bodes well for moviegoing in general as we move into the summer movie season," Aronson said. "Kids are out of school starting this coming week and I couldn't think of a better film to be in the marketplace than this one: It's new, it's fresh, its original, and it's such a heartwarming film."

" Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes " continues to be a bright spot. In just 10 days, it surpassed $100 million domestically and $237 million globally. It came in second place in its second weekend with $26 million (down 55%).

But there also hasn't been a major movie moment akin to last year's "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," "Barbie" or "Oppenheimer" in quite some time. Last year on this weekend "Fast X" opened to over $60 million.

"This is a very unusual summer. It got off to an unusual start without a Marvel movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The box office has been in a holding pattern 20% down from last year."

"IF" wasn't the only new film to open this weekend either. Lionsgate's horror "The Strangers—Chapter 1" overperformed with a $12 million debut from 2,856 locations. The innovative marketing campaign staged some viral moments by bringing the "strangers" to major events, from the Trump trial to Coachella.

Diddy admits beating Cassie, says he's sorry, calls actions 'inexcusable'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs admitted that he beat his ex-girlfriend Cassie in a hotel hallway in 2016 after CNN released video of the attack, saying in a video apology he was "truly sorry" and his actions were "inexcusable."

"I take full responsibility for my actions in that video. I was disgusted then when I did it. I'm disgusted now," the music mogul said in a video statement posted Sunday to Instagram and Facebook.

The security video aired Friday shows Combs, wearing only a white towel, punching and kicking Cassie, an R&B singer who was his protege and longtime girlfriend at the time. The footage also shows Combs shoving and dragging Cassie, and throwing a vase in her direction.

Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, sued Combs in November over what she said was years of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The suit was settled the next day, but spurred intense scrutiny of Combs, with several more lawsuits filed in the following months, along with a federal criminal sex-trafficking investigation that led authorities to raid Combs' mansions in Los Angeles and Miami.

He had denied the allegations in the lawsuits, but neither he nor his representatives had responded to the newly emerged video until Sunday.

"It's so difficult to reflect on the darkest times in your life, but sometimes you got to do that," Diddy says on the video. He adds, "I went and I sought out professional help. I got into going to therapy, going to rehab. I had to ask God for his mercy and grace. I'm so sorry. But I'm committed to be a better man each and every day. I'm not asking for forgiveness. I'm truly sorry."

Combs is looking somber and wearing a T-shirt in the selfie-style apology video, and appears to be on a patio. It is the hip-hop mogul's most direct response and first apology after six months of allegations that have threatened his reputation and career.

Meredith Firetog, who represents Ventura and other women who have sued Combs, said the apology was "more about himself than the many people he has hurt.

"When Cassie and multiple other women came forward, he denied everything and suggested that his victims were looking for a payday," the lawyer said in a statement. "That he was only compelled to 'apologize' once his repeated denials were proven false shows his pathetic desperation, and no one will be swayed by his disingenuous words."

Husband likes to get high but keeps lying about it

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 10 years, together for 12. We have no children together, but I have four from a previous marriage. Two are grown and have moved out; two are still home and in high school.

When we got together, my husband stepped right up and became a wonderful stepdad. He has always been a provider, a listener, an advice giver, friend, etc. He is the epitome of a great dad and husband. My family loves him, and I love him with my whole heart.

There is just one small problem that has recurred throughout our marriage. Abby, he told me several years ago that he had stopped smoking marijuana, yet many times over the years I have caught him sneaking around to do it. If I ask him about it, he lies to my face and insists that no, he doesn't. I don't ask unless I have seen it or have found some somewhere.

We live in a state where recreational use is legal, so it's not the smoking that really bothers me—it's the lying. I don't partake, so I guess I don't understand, but how can I get him to see that I need him to be honest with me? I can't accept being lied to, especially over something so stupid.

MIFFED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MIFFED: Your husband may lie because he knows how you feel about his smoking, and he wants to avoid conflict. Since you have caught him in the act, his unwillingness to fess up shows a lack of character and, I'm sorry to say, a tendency to gaslight you, and I don't blame you for being upset.

There are few ways more effective in eroding trust than to do what you say he has been doing. That is why it is important the two of you have an HONEST discussion about his pot smoking—either at home or in the office of a licensed family therapist.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently moved to a new city. I have made friends here, and we have great neighbors. I have become close with several of the women, but my husband has not made any buddies. When I try to create opportunities for him to get closer to the guys, he reacts by saying, "How dare you!" or "What makes you think I need help?"

When I want some girl time with my friends, he gets mad and accuses me of not wanting him around and excluding him from my life. I can't seem to make him understand that women need girl time for our own mental health, and it is not about him. Help, please!

SAD AND TRAPPED

DEAR SAD: Most women need women friends, so please don't isolate yourself in an attempt to placate your husband. If he thinks that by hanging around with you and your women friends he is filling what's missing in his social life, he needs a wake-up call. Whether you want him around during those visits or not, the feelings of the other women should be considered.

Did your husband have male friends in your former town? I suspect not, which may be why he continues to be so dependent on you now. Unless he is willing to make the effort, you can't fix his social problems. Encouraging him to develop hobbies and interests of his own may help, and volunteering in your new community might introduce him to other men he can bond with. Please suggest it.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

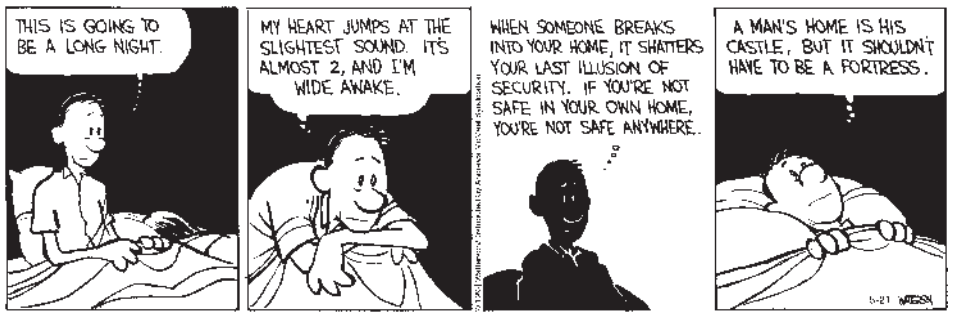
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

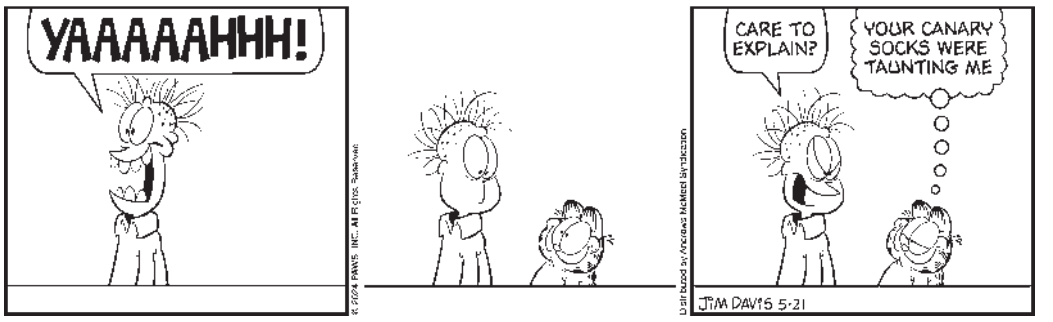
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
MY HEART JUMPS AT THE SLIGHTEST SOUND. IT'S ALMOST 2, AND I'M WIDE AWAKE.
WHEN SOMEONE BREAKS INTO YOUR HOME, IT SHATTERS YOUR LAST ILLUSION OF SECURITY. IF YOU'RE NOT SAFE IN YOUR OWN HOME, YOU'RE NOT SAFE ANYWHERE.
A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE, BUT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE A FORTRESS.

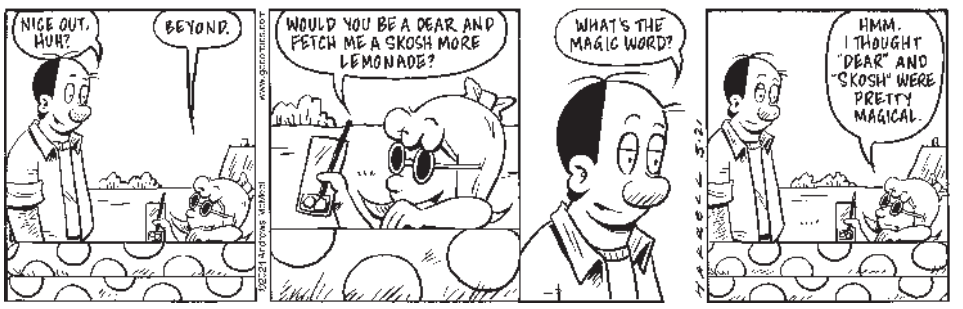
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



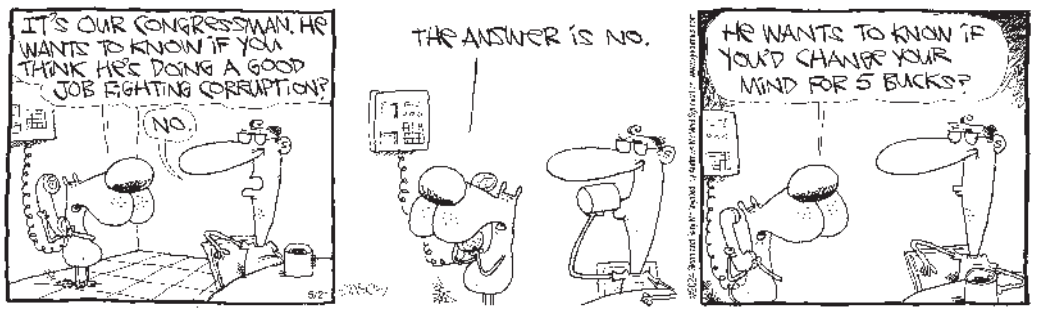
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NICE OUT, HUH?
BEYOND.
WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND FETCH ME A SKOSH MORE LEMONADE?
WHAT'S THE MAGIC WORD?
HMM. I THOUGHT "DEAR" AND "SKOSH" WERE PRETTY MAGICAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S OUR CONGRESSMAN. HE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU THINK HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB FIGHTING CORRUPTION?
NO.
THE ANSWER IS NO.
HE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND FOR 5 BUCKS?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gym pads
5 Balkan native
9 "Evita" narrator
12 Bloke
13 California city
14 Possessed
15 Shirt tag with washing instructions
17 Chang's brother
18 Robbers' foes
19 Feudal superior
21 Supports
24 Lip
25 Hosp. areas
26 Sleeveless vests
30 Diner order
31 "Let's Dance" singer
32 Author Tolstoy
33 Greyhound's home?
35 Frog's relative
36 Cask sediment
37 Molten rock
38 One a-courting
40 Unctuous
42 I love (Lat.)
43 Snake-like group dance
48 Scale members
49 Not pizzicato
50 Valhalla VIP
51 Away from SSW
52 — -do-well
53 Byway

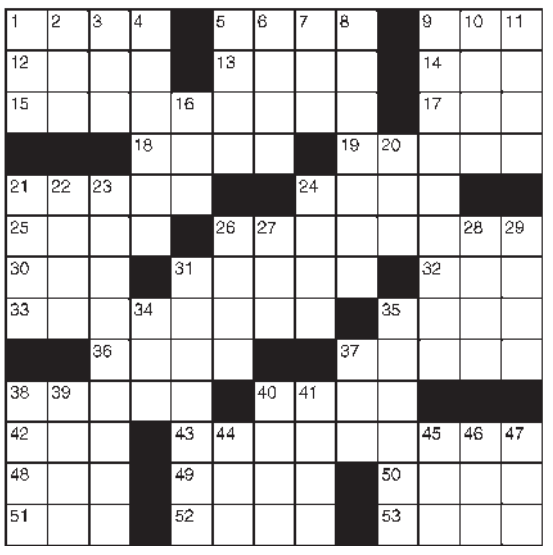
DOWN

1 Cato's 1200
2 "Caught ya!"
3 Sailor
4 Dust particles
5 High-five sound
6 High tennis shots
7 Sports drink suffix
8 Hamlet
9 Nut-covered appetizer made with Roquefort
10 Suspend
11 Perimeter
16 — Angeles
20 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)
21 Lettuce variety
22 Rights org.
23 Paints the town red
24 Peevish fit
26 Soaks (ups)
27 — Jima
28 Squad
29 Pop
31 Frat party castoff
34 Ruby or Sandra
35 "Karma" singer Swift
37 Org. with a style manual
38 Tip off
39 Portent
40 Formerly
41 "Firebird" composer Stravinsky
44 Mine yield
45 Altar promise
46 Actress Long
47 Finale

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	O	F	A		C	O	B		L	L	A	N
E	R	I	C	B	A	N	A		M	U	S	E
M	O	I	H	E	R	E	D		B	R	I	E
			I	R	F		G	I	I	F	A	D
S	U	I	N	G		W	E	R	E			
S	T	A	G		I	A	R	A	M	I	F	
N	A	G		P	O	L	E	S		D	V	I
	H	O	G	T	I	F	D		D	F	F	M
			H	A	T	S		T	E	A	R	S
R	E	P	O	S	E		S	A	C			
F	I	I	S		R	E	N	D	E	R	E	D
A	B	E	T		E	V	A	S	I	O	N	S
M	E	S	S		D	E	G		T	O	O	T

Yesterday's answer 5-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuza Balk, 50; Lisa Edelstein, 58; Nick Cassavetes, 65; Judge Reinhold, 67.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention, observe, learn and explore the possibilities. Draw from experience, and refuse to let your emotions interfere when intelligence and common sense are the keys to your success. How you handle situations and people will determine how much support you receive. Simplicity, stellar management and well-executed responses are favored. Set high standards. What you put out, you will get back. Your numbers are 7, 15, 26, 28, 34, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Protect your personal and professional relationships. Mixing business with pleasure or joining a joint venture will require compromise. Keep an open mind and do your best to strive for equality and fair play. A direct and honest assessment and contribution will ward off a misunderstanding. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Your power of persuasion will come in handy. Size up situations and implement the changes necessary to get what you want. Call in favors, use your resources and stick with it until you are satisfied with the results. Turn your aspiration into reality. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Use your imagination when interacting with others. How you present your intentions will change how others respond to you and the contributions they make. Offer information and enthusiasm. If you are too revealing, someone will take advantage of you. Protect your health and possessions. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Press forward with confidence. Take advantage of an offer that allows you to use your skills uniquely. Speak passionately about your feelings, desires and long-term plans, and you'll gain insight into what's possible. Be open to suggestions, and you'll learn something new. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Distance yourself from drama, trouble and pushy people. Focus on what you can achieve that will help you gain confidence and encourage you to learn and update your skills. Keep up with what's trending, and it will keep you from being left behind. Avoid overreacting or letting down your guard. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Devise a plan and follow through. How you proceed will determine how well you do. Don't wait for someone to outmaneuver you. Trust and believe in yourself, and you will outshine anyone who tries to get in your way. Personal gain and positive change are within reach. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Test your skills, knowledge and physical ability. Strive for perfection, and you will impress someone who can help you get ahead personally or professionally. Do whatever it takes to exude confidence and a positive attitude. Use your skills uniquely, and you'll make exciting connections. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Talks, interaction and using your resources will get you where you want to go. Don't wait; take charge and be the one to make things happen. Talk from the heart and make a passionate plea that captures attention and helps you get the desired outcome. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Have a clear picture of what you want before you discuss your options with someone who can alter what you do for a living or how or where you reside. Gather the information you receive and fact-check everything before committing to change. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Participation will lead to interesting connections. Don't be reclusive when you should be experiencing new possibilities and personal growth. Conversations will offer a unique perspective regarding options that can help you improve your life. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay in the background and observe, and you'll get a better view of the intentions behind how others act. Keeping your thoughts to yourself will prevent anyone from gaining insight into your intentions. Knowledge is your best resource when dealing with questionable situations. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share with people you know well and trust to contribute something worthwhile. Express your gratitude and intentions, and the feedback you get will enhance your plans and influence how you move forward. Travel, learning, peace and love will lead to personal growth and gains. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are heroic, willful and persistent. You are innovative and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	1				5		4
			4	9		3	2	
	9	2				6		1
		7		2			4	
3		8				2	6	
6	2		5	3	8			
1		5						2
		3		1			5	9
7		9		5	4	1	3	

Difficulty: ★★ 5/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	7	1	8	2	4	9	5
2	4	9	7	3	5	8	6	1
1	8	5	9	6	4	2	3	7
4	5	6	8	9	7	1	2	3
9	3	2	6	4	1	7	5	8
8	7	1	5	2	3	9	4	6
6	1	3	2	7	9	5	8	4
5	2	8	4	1	6	3	7	9
7	9	4	3	5	8	6	1	2

Difficulty: ★ 5/20

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DONUT SPRINKLES Solution: 9 letters

T	O	P	P	I	N	G	S	J	I	M	M	I	E	S
O	N	O	N	P	A	R	E	I	L	S	S	C	H	A
P	B	A	B	O	N	E	S	A	N	T	A	A	F	M
P	R	R	D	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	P	C	I	T
E	U	E	I	N	S	D	O	R	R	E	C	A	N	S
R	S	R	L	G	O	H	S	O	S	O	D	C	E	I
S	H	U	R	P	H	F	T	E	H	R	O	H	R	R
T	U	T	A	C	P	T	K	A	A	L	Y	O	U	H
O	N	X	E	O	D	A	L	H	O	L	T	U	T	C
C	I	E	P	N	L	L	E	R	E	V	S	S	A	R
K	C	T	U	F	O	A	F	N	A	T	A	T	I	Y
I	O	O	W	W	R	U	Y	N	I	T	T	L	N	S
N	R	O	E	T	L	E	T	S	A	P	E	A	I	T
G	N	E	S	G	O	L	D	I	A	M	R	E	M	A
S	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	E	Y	E	B	A	L	L

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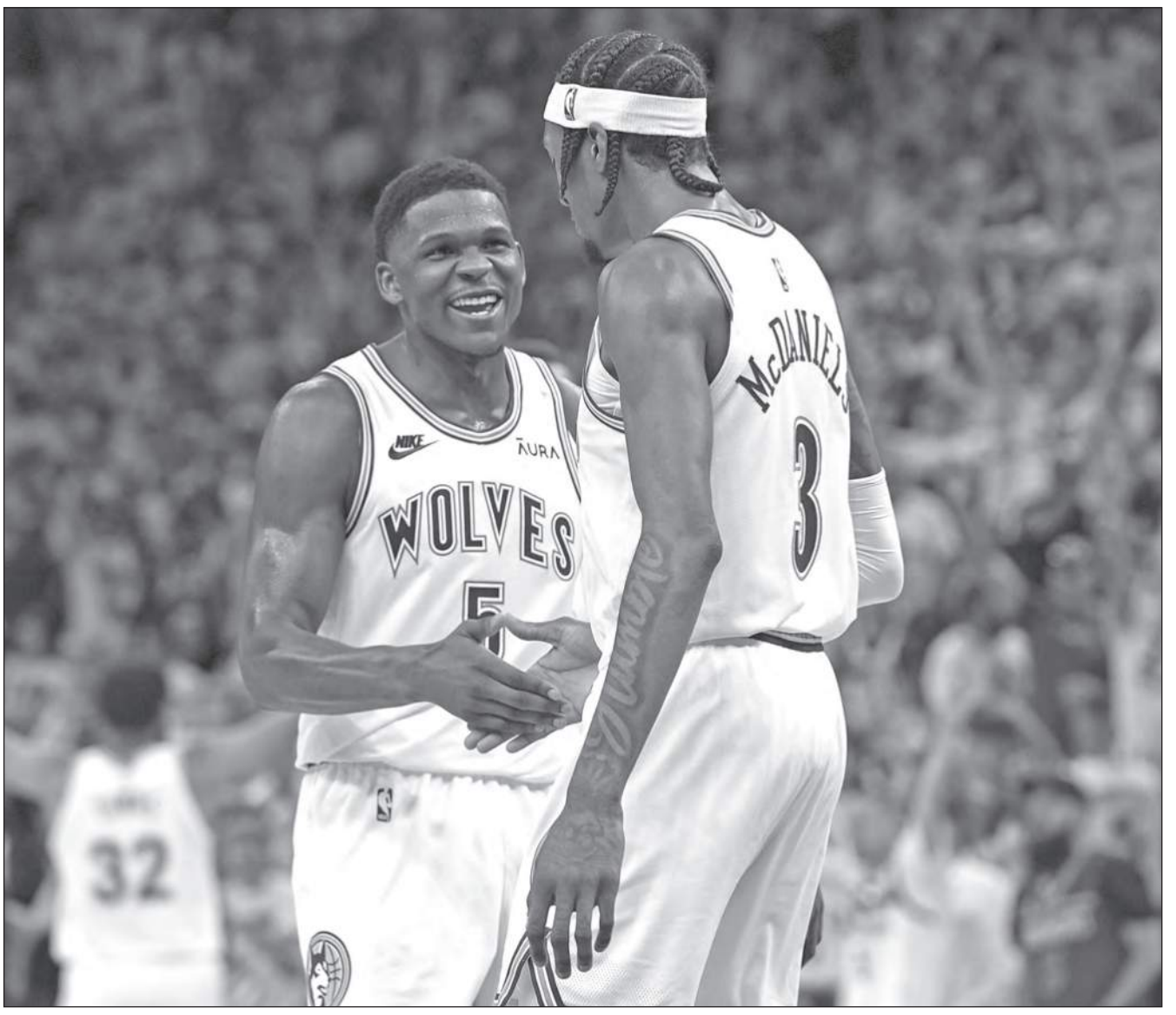
Bones, Bright, Brush, Cachous, Carrot, Christmas, Colorful, Crystal, Eyeball, Fine, Fondant, Gold, Halloween, Hard, Hearts, Jimmies, Matte, Mermaid, Miniature, Nonpareils, Oval, Pastel, Pearl, Pineapple, Pumpkins, Rainbow, Rods, Round, Santa, Shapes, Snowflakes, Stars, Stockings, Tasty, Texture, Tiny, Toppers, Toppings, Unicorn

Yesterday's Answer: Thumb

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

T'Wolves storm back from 20 points down to oust Nuggets



AP

Minnesota Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels (3) celebrates with guard Anthony Edwards (5) after making a 3-point basket during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Denver Nuggets, Thursday, May 16, 2024, in Minneapolis.

DENVER (AP)—Anthony Edwards overcame a slow start and the Timberwolves roared back from a 20-point second-half deficit to eliminate the reigning NBA champion Denver Nuggets 98-90 in a Game 7 Minnesota masterpiece on Sunday night.

The Timberwolves overcame a 15-point halftime deficit—the largest comeback in a Game 7 in NBA playoff history—behind Edwards, who had just four points, no rebounds and three assists at halftime but finished with 16 points, eight boards and seven assists.

His impact belied his 6-of-24 shooting that included a 2-for-10 3-point performance.

"It was tough, man, because I couldn't find myself, my rhythm tonight," Edwards said. "So I just had to trust my teammates. … I just had to make the right plays throughout the rest of the game. I did that and my teammates made shots. Big shout-out to those guys."

As Minnesota took control late, over and over Edwards denied Jamal Murray, who had 24 points by halftime and finished with 35.

"There's more ways to win the basketball game when you're just not an offensive player," Edwards said. "I'm not one-dimensional. I'm not just a guy who can score. I'm a guy who—whoever their best guard is, I can go lock him down. I feel like I did that on Jamal in the fourth quarter—in the third quarter and fourth quarter—and that's what turned the game around."

As the seconds ticked away, Edwards dribbled the ball upcourt and took time to wave good-bye to the stunned crowd at Ball Arena, where the Nuggets' 33-8 record this season was second-best in the league but where the Wolves won three times this series.

The Wolves, who got 23 points each from Karl-Anthony Towns and Jaden McDaniels, advanced to the Western Conference finals for the first time in exactly 20 years. They'll face the Dallas Mavericks beginning Wednesday night at Target Center.

"It feels great," Wolves center Rudy Gobert said. "Beating a team like they are, an incredible team, a championship team, with the best player in the world, it feels good.

Behind Murray's fantastic start, the Nuggets raced to a 53-38 halftime lead and Murray's 3-pointer with 10:50 left in the third pushed Denver's lead to 58-38.

The Wolves turned to their defense, the NBA's stingiest, to get back into the game, and they closed the quarter on a 28-9 run to pull to 67-66 heading into the fourth.

Gobert gave the Wolves their first lead since the first quarter with a bucket to start the fourth and when Towns picked up his fifth foul, Naz Reid, the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year, was spectacular at both ends of the floor to keep Minnesota ahead.

In one crucial stretch that started with Minnesota ahead 85-82, Reid had two free throws and a dunk before feeding Edwards for a back-breaking 3-pointer that put the Wolves ahead 92-82 with three minutes left.

Murray, coming off a 4-for-18 shooting performance in the Nuggets' 115-70 loss in Game 6—the largest ever in the playoffs by a reigning champion—made 13 of 27 shots for 35 points. Jokic added 34 points to go with 19 rebounds but the duo got little help as no other Denver players reached double figures in points.

"So much was being placed on their shoulders," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We're expecting Jokic and Jamal to continue pulling rabbits out of their hat, man, and somebody else has got to give some help."

This marked the Timberwolves' first Game 7 since beating Sacramento in the second round exactly 20 years earlier. That's the only other time they reached the conference finals. The Nuggets were playing in their fifth Game 7 in the last six seasons and were seeking their third trip to the conference finals in that span.

"That was a hell of a series," Malone said. "They gave us all we could handle and they ended up winning Game 7 on our home court, which is a tough one to swallow. But we'll be back."

The Nuggets became the fifth consecutive defending champion to fail to reach the conference finals. The last one to do it was Golden State in 2019 when the Warriors reached the NBA Finals only to lose to Toronto.

"The one thing I keep on going back to right now is I consider the San Antonio Spurs a dynasty and they never won back-to-back," Malone said. "So losing, the hurt of it, the pain of it, it helped us win our first championship. Can we use this year?"

Murray thinks so.

"For sure," he said. "It's back to being the hunter."

PACERS 130, KNICKS 109

NEW YORK (AP)—When the Indiana Pacers compiled one of the best offensive seasons in NBA history, they were just getting warmed up.

For Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals, they delivered something really spectacular.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 26 points and the Pacers set an NBA playoff record by shooting 67.1% from the field, beating the New York Knicks 130-109 on Sunday to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time in 10 years.

"We have a historic offense obviously, but this guy got things rolling and everybody kind of just followed suit," center Myles Turner said, pointing toward Haliburton.

"To do that on the road here in the Garden in Game 7 obviously is phenomenal, but I think this is what we've been doing all season long and we were able to show it on the biggest stage."

The Pacers averaged 123.3 points during the regular season, sixth highest in league history, and set an NBA record by scoring 140 11 times.

They haven't slowed down much in the playoffs.

The Pacers made 29 of their 38 shots in the first half, a shooting percentage of 76.3% that was the highest in the postseason since 1997, when the NBA began keeping detailed play-by-play for all four quarters. They led 70-55 at that point and pulled away every time the Knicks tried to make a run in the second half.

"I just told our team when you win a Game 7 in Madison Square Garden, you've made history," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.

The No. 6-seeded Pacers advanced to face top-seeded Boston in a series that begins Tuesday. Indiana last reached the conference finals in 2014, losing to Miami.

Jalen Brunson left in the second half with a broken left hand, one final injury for a Knicks team that was decimated by them.

They got OG Anunoby back Sunday after he missed the previous four games with a strained left hamstring, but he clearly wasn't moving well and was taken out of the game after just five minutes.

Pascal Siakam and Andrew Nembhard each scored 20 points and Aaron Nesmith was 8 for 8 en route to his 19 for the Pacers.

Donte DiVincenzo made nine 3-pointers and scored 39 points for the Knicks, who were trying to reach the conference finals for the first time since 2000 but couldn't overcome the losses of Julius Randle, Mitchell Robinson and Bojan Bogdanovic, before losing Anunoby and finally Brunson.

"Knowing that this team gave its best effort all year long, I can live with the result," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's disappointing, but in the end there's only going to be one happy team. Twenty-nine teams will fall short. This team fought like crazy and there's no regret."

Brunson finished with 17 points and nine assists, shooting 6 for 17 after scoring 40 or more points five times in this postseason. Alec Burks came off the bench for 26 points.

The third Game 7 between the franchises—the Knicks won in the 1994 Eastern Conference finals and the Pacers pulled out a 97-95 victory the next year in the East semifinals—was a chance for the Pacers to prove that their fast-paced style can win at a time when defenses are supposed to rule.

They scored 39 points in the first quarter, the most in a Game 7 in the play-by-play era, a score that would have been more fitting for halftime in the Pacers-Knicks rivalry of the previous century.

"I think it's just the old-school way of thinking that you can't play this fast in the playoffs, but I think opportunistically you can do it. I think if we're able to get stops, of course we can," said Haliburton, who was wearing a sweatshirt with a picture of Reggie Miller making a choking sign from a playoff game at MSG.

The Pacers made 10 of their first 11 shots—it would have been 11 of 12, but Turner's dunk attempt bounced back out of the basket—and didn't slow down much the rest of the half. Knicks fans who were screaming and chanting before the game were groaning during it as the Pacers made shot after shot, no matter how well the Knicks had defended them.

The Pacers led 39-27 after shooting 16 for 21 from the field (76.2%) and 7 for 9 from 3-point range (77.8%) in the first quarter. Indiana then went 13 for 17 (76.5%) in the second quarter, with the lead growing to 22 points.

The Knicks cut it to 70-55 at halftime, then scored the first seven out of the break as part of a 12-3 start to the second half that trimmed it to 73-67. But with the Pacers leading by seven, the Knicks committed three straight turnovers that helped Indiana push the lead to 84-70.

Josh Hart played through an abdominal strain for the Knicks, fouling out with 10 points and eight rebounds.

Corbin Burnes strikes out 11 as Orioles beat Mariners, 6-3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson hit his major league-leading 15th home run, Ryan O'Hearn also went deep and Corbin Burnes notched 11 strikeouts to help the Baltimore Orioles beat the Seattle Mariners 6-3 Sunday.

Henderson's fifth leadoff homer of the season was the first of nine hits against George Kirby (4-4) in the deciding matchup of the three-game series. Henderson homered in each game while going 5 for 12 with two walks and five RBIs.

Burnes (4-2) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings to earn his first win in five starts since April 20. The 11 strikeouts matched his season high, set on opening day against the Angels.

Craig Kimbrel, who lost his job as Baltimore's closer after a series of ineffective appearances, returned to the role and got three straight outs for his ninth save of the season and 426th of his career.

Luis Urías drove in two runs and Luke Raley had three hits for the Mariners, who fell behind 5-1 in the third inning and could not make up the deficit. Seattle had won eight of nine series dating back to April 15.

AP

Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Corbin Burnes throws to the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Baltimore.

BLUE JAYS 5, RAYS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Daniel Vogelbach homered and scored three runs, Alek Manoah won for the first time since last August and Toronto avoided their first sweep of the season by beating Tampa Bay.

Alejandro Kirk reached base three times and drove in two runs as the Blue Jays snapped a three-game losing streak with their third shutout win.

George Springer hit an RBI double, walked twice and scored twice as Toronto stopped Tampa Bay's winning streak at four. The Rays had won 11 of their previous 15.

RED SOX 11, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rafael Devers tied a Boston record by homering for his fifth consecutive game, as they beat St. Louis to stop a season-high, four-game losing streak.

Devers hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Ryan Fernandez, his ninth home run this season. He became the seventh Boston player to homer in five straight games, the first since Bobby Dalbec from Sept. 5-10, 2020.

Tyler O'Neill homered against his former team as Boston rebounded after falling two games under .500 for the first time this season. The Red Sox outhit St. Louis 14-6.

Nick Pivetta (2-2) gave up one run and one hit in six innings with eight strikeouts and no walks.

GUARDIANS 5, TWINS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Will Brennan hit a three-run homer off Jhoan Duran with two outs in a wild ninth inning, giving Cleveland a victory over Minnesota.

The inning appeared to be over one batter earlier when Andrés Giménez was called out at second while advancing on a wild pitch, but a crew-chief initiated video review ruled him safe. Josh Naylor was intentionally walked for Duran (0-2) to face Brennan.

Minnesota had trailed 2-1 with two outs and no one on base in the ninth, but pushed across the tying run without a hit against All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase (3-1).

YANKEES 7, WHITE SOX 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge and Jon Berti homered into Yankee Stadium's right field short porch, and New York extended its winning streak to seven by beating Chicago for a three-game sweep.

Judge's homer was his 13th this season and seventh in 13 games.

Carlos Rodón (5-2) won his third straight start for New York, an AL-best 33-15. The Yankees have won 13 of 15 and are on their longest winning streak since Sept. 18-25, 2022. The Yankees swept their fourth series, matching last year's total.

Chicago, an AL-worst 14-33, have been swept seven times. The White Sox wasted a 2-0 lead and dropped to a major league-worst 4-19 on the road.

ROYALS 8, ATHLETICS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Brady Singer stuck out nine, Vinnie Pasquantino hit a three-run triple and Kansas City completed a sweep of Oakland.

It was the third sweep of the season for Kansas City. It took until September 20 for the Royals to record their third sweep of the season last year.

Singer (4-2) tossed six innings on one-run ball, giving up six hits with one walk and nine strikeouts. It was the fifth time this season that Singer has stuck out six or more and was one shy of his season high. He has gone at least five innings in every start this season.

Pasquantino hit a three-run pinch-hit triple to highlight a four-run sixth inning for the Royals. It was his first career triple in the Majors. Kansas City ended the day with five extra-base hits.

PHILLIES 11, NATIONALS 5

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Alec Bohm homered and drove in five runs, Bryce Harper doubled and had two RBIs and Philadelphia swept their sixth series of the season with a victory over Washington.

Kody Clemens had a pair of doubles and two RBIs for Philadelphia (34-14), which has the most wins in the majors. The Phillies tied their franchise record for the best start in the first 48 games, matching the 1976 and 1993 clubs.

Jesse Winker and Eddie Rosario homered for the Nationals, who ended an 11-day, nine-game road trip by losing their fifth straight and seventh in their last eight games, including the last three to Philadelphia.

METS 7, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Harrison Bader and Tyrone Taylor each drove in two runs in a four-run first inning, star closer Edwin Díaz was not used in a save situation and New York beat Miami for just their second win in seven games.

Brandon Nimmo homered and Francisco Lindor singled twice following a 1-for-27 skid as the Mets rebounded from blowing a four-run, ninth-inning lead on Saturday and avoided a three-game sweep. New York stopped Miami's four-game winning streak.

Sean Manaea (3-1) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings. Sean Reid-Foley and Jake Diekman pitch an inning each, and Reed Garrett got his second save by allowing one hit over two innings with four strikeouts in a 34-pitch outing.

PIRATES 3, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Mitch Keller pitched six effective innings, Nick Gonzales hit a key two-run single and Pittsburgh beat Chicago.

Jack Suwinski connected for another homer against Jameson Taillon as Pittsburgh closed out a 4-3 road trip by taking three of four from Chicago. Gonzales, Andrew McCutchen and Jared Triolo each had two of the Pirates' 10 hits.

Keller improved to 3-0 with a 1.29 ERA in three May starts. The right-hander allowed two runs and two hits, struck out three and walked three.

Keller (5-3) has worked at least five innings in his past 41 starts, the longest active streak in the majors.

ANGELS 4, RANGERS 1

ARLINGTON, TEXAS (AP)—Right-hander José Soriano pitched a career-high 7 2/3 innings, pinch-hitter Kevin Pillar had a tiebreaking two-run single and Los Angeles got a series-clinching victory over Texas.

The Angels took two of three over the reigning World Series champions in Ron Washington's first series in Texas as a visiting manager. He is the Rangers' winningest manager with his 664 wins and two American League pennants from 2007-14.

Soriano (2-4), who struck out five and walked two, got the first two outs of the eighth, and then a visit from Washington after his first pitch to Corey Seager was a ball. The manager went back out to make a change after Seager walked and Nathaniel Lowe singled, but Luis García worked around a single to get out of the inning.

Garcia also worked the ninth for his second save in as many chances.

ASTROS 9, BREWERS 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Tucker homered twice to tie for the major league lead with 15 and drove in four runs, leading Houston over Milwaukee for their ninth win in 11 games.

Jose Altuve hit his 37th leadoff homer in a four-run first inning and Jake Meyers had three hits for Houston, which took two of three from the Brewers and improved to 21-26 with its third straight series win.

After striking out in his first three at-bats, Tucker hit a solo homer to right in the sixth off Thyago Vieira and a three-run, opposite-field drive to left in the seventh against Mitch White. Tucker tied Baltimore's Gunnar Henderson at 15 home runs after his third multihomer game this season and the sixth of his big league career.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, TIGERS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Joc Pederson and Christian Walker both had two RBIs, and Arizona avoided a three-game sweep by beating Detroit.

The D-backs scratched across two runs in the seventh to break a 4-all tie.

Randal Grichuk scored on a weak groundout by Pavin Smith after catcher Jake Rogers couldn't handle a bouncing throw from shortstop Javier Báez, who had trouble getting the ball out of his glove. Christian Walker came home one batter later on another soft grounder by rookie Blaze Alexander.

Detrout squandered an opportunity in the eighth with runners on second and third and one out when Ryan Thompson (2-1) struck out Matt Vierling and Gio Urshela.

DODGERS 3, REDS 2, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani delivered his second major league walk-off hit, a two-out single in the 10th inning that sent Los Angeles to a victory over Cincinnati.

Andy Pages hit an early two-run homer for the Dodgers, who have won 20 of 26 after taking three of four from Cincinnati.

Pinch-hitter Will Smith drew a one-out walk in the 10th from Alexis Díaz (1-3), who got Mookie Betts to fly out before Ohtani stroked a single to right, scoring Jason Heyward. Ohtani's latest feat set off a loud celebration for another huge weekend crowd at Dodger Stadium.

His only other walk-off hit in Major League Baseball was an 11th-inning single for the Los Angeles Angels in a 6-5 win over Houston on Sept. 4, 2020.

GIANTS 4, ROCKIES 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Heliot Ramos hit his second big league home run, and San Francisco beat Colorado for their first series sweep this season.

Hicks (4-1) allowed one run and three hits over five innings with no walks as the Giants stretched their winning streak to a season-high four.

Sean Hjelle, Luke Jackson, Taylor Rogers and Camilo Doval each pitched a hitless inning to complete a three-hitter. Doval struck out Jake Cave for the final out and remained perfect in eight save chances.

Ramos homered in the sixth inning against Victor Vodnik. His other big league homer was last Aug. 12 against Brock Burke of Texas.

PADRES 9, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Yu Darvish dominated a slumping Braves offense and extended his career-high scoreless innings streak to 25 while earning his 200th professional win as San Diego hammered Atlanta.

Darvish (4-1) gave up only two hits, struck out nine and walked one on 99 pitches in seven innings, and lowered his ERA to 2.08.

He became the third Japanese-born pitcher to reach 200 career wins between MLB and Nippon Professional Baseball, joining Hiroki Huroda (203) and Hideo Nomo (201). Darvish, who has won his last four starts, has 107 major league victories and 93 in the NPB.

Jake Cronenworth, Luis Campusano and Ha-Seong Kim all hit home runs for the Padres, who entered with no extra-base hits in their previous three games. Jurickson Profar was 3 for 4 with a walk, two runs scored and an RBI.

Matansa, Kanoa to face off in MSL 1 finals

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa Football Club and Kanoa FC are set to face off in the finals of the Marianas Soccer League 1 after they bested their foes in the semis last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Matansa got the better of MP United in a thrilling shootout, 5-3, after a tied, 2-2 regulation.

They didn't hold back their firepower as they ensured each PK found an opening past MPU's goalie. MPU didn't let up either and it was a close call until their last PK attempt by Leland Guerrero failed to find the back of the net.

Matansa's Tanapon Unsa secured their first PK, while Mareko Tekopua, Sunjoon Tenorio, Joe Wang Miller, and Anthony Bergancia slotted the next four goals to claim a spot in the finals.

For MPU, Dev Bachani, Isiah Hossain, and Jireh Yobech scored the three PKs.

In regulation, Tenorio and Unsa led Matansa to an early 2-0 lead in the first half. But, MPU rallied and came up with better late than never goals in the 56th and 75th minute by Bachani and Hossain to tie it up, 2-2, and force a shootout.

In the Kanoa vs. Paire game, Kanoa won a lopsided 5-0 matchup.

Kanoa's command of the ball remained consistent throughout and never faltered, while Paire had a difficult time traversing the pitch.

Kanoa had majority of the possession and in no time, Andruw Omelau broke the ice in the 10th minute to put them up, 1-0. Just four minutes later, Paul Lizama made it 2-nil. Paire couldn't get over the roadblock and came out of the first half without a goal.

In the second half, Kanoa continued their hot streak and scored two back-to-back goals.

Omelau made it 3-0 in the 51st and was immediately followed up by Markus Toves. Kanoa's fifth goal came by way of Toves once again in the 68th minute which eventually punched their ticket to the finals.

On Matansa with Unsa and Tenorio was Ariel Narvaez Jr., Saixian Bagsic, Jonne Navarro, Anthony Austria, Zhi Xiang Lin, John Masga, Akira Kadokura, John Masga, Brandon Tenorio, David Mafnas, Joe Miller, Mareko Tekopua, Jamin Elliot, Seho Baek, Raymond Mercado, and Dane Hodges.

With Omelau, Lizama, and Toves were Merrick Toves, Daniell Pablo, Brian Lubao, Andrew Sablan, Ruben Guerrero, Mark Chavez, Maximus Taitano, Tyler Omelau, Izeah Jolo, Vicente Reyes, John Quidato, Nolan Ngewakl, Adrian Lubao, Jim Maniago, Christian Negara, and Aloyzeus Angeles.

Catch the championship showdown this Sunday, May 26, at 6pm. The third-place game between Paire and MP United is right before at 4pm.

Audie leads 3 categories in BASA

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sufa's slugger Audie Maratita leads the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association in batting average, home runs, and RBIs as of May 5.

Maratita barely misses what's pitched at him as he went 30 hits out of 43 at-bats for a .698 batting average. Second in Peliliu's Cartfield Sablan who went 33 for 48 at-bats for a .688 average, while third is S.R. Matsutaro from Asahi with 29 connections in 45 plate appearances for a .644 average.

Maratita also hit the most home runs with 11, while second was Ben Hocog with 9. Joey Dela Cruz, Jerome Delos Santos, Manny Sablan, and Pat Deleon Guerrero hit 8 dingers of their own.

In the runs batted in category, Maratita is in first place with 35 RBIs. Second is Cartfield Sablan with 33, while Manny Sablan is at 29, and Deleon Guerrero is at 28.

The most doubles hit was Joe Lizama with 10; Delos Santos hit 9; Maratita, John Taitano, Jason Reyes, and Jerry Guerrero hit 8 each.

Clint Quitugua, Glenn Camacho, and Suo Matsutaro are tied for the most triples at 3 each, while seven other players are tied with 2.

The most runs scored is Mark Toves at 26, while Paul Salalila, John Terlaje, and Derek Aguon are at 25 each. Five other players are tied with 24 each.

Over on the bump, the pitching leader is Sufa's Kallie Igisomar who pitched nine games, a total of 45.2 innings, and has a 5.575 ERA, with 36 earned runs, and a 7-2 win/loss record. Second is Asahi's Dom Hideo with a 6.816 ERA and 74 ER, in 13 games and 76 innings pitched. He has an 11-2 record. Hagu La'mun's Openg Celis takes the third spot with an ERA of 6.918, 84 ER, pitched in 13 games and 85 innings, and has a 10-3 record.

The most strikeouts was made by Leo Bobai with 41. Guerrero is right behind with 40, while Celis has 28, and Jojo Attao and Hideo are tied with 26.

In the team standings, Asahi led with 13 wins and 2 losses; Man Amigos was at 12-3; Hagu La'mun was at 11-4; Sufa at 10-5; Tokahao, Peliliu, and Wazzup were at 7-8; Redmen had a 4-11 record; Tuturamz was 3-12; while Saipal was down in the dumps at only one win and 14 losses.

ACS

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fastest in the 1,500m with a time of 4:34.04. Silver went to Miller at 4:40.90, and bronze was teammate Takeru Jim who finished at 4:49.53.

In the girls 3,000m, Barbara Wang ran her way to bronze with her time of 13:56.75. Gold was Chavez once again at 12:07.47, while silver was Pan at 13:48.26.

In the 1,500m, Barbara Wang claimed silver as she clocked in at 6:12.74. Gold was none other than Chavez with a time of 5:42.57, and bronze went to Pan at 6:13.49.

Then, Zhu sprinted her way to bronze in the 200m race at 30.59 seconds, while gold went to Cruz at 27.09 seconds. Silver was Iakopo at 28.20 seconds.

In the 4x100m relay, the Torchbearers boys team earned the school another gold with their time of 49.29 seconds. Silver went to KHS at 49.45 seconds, and bronze was SIS at 50.64.

ACS' boys team also dominated the 4x400m relay with a time of 4:01.72. Silver was KHS at 4:10.97, and bronze went to MHS at 4:15.30.

For the ACS girls team, they ran their way to gold too with a time of 5:13.15. Silver went to MHS at 5:34.64.

ACS' Jacob Wang added another medal with a bronze finish in the shotput throw at 9.67m. Gold was Tinian High School's Mefi Norech-Lazaro at 10.70m, and silver was Grace Christian Academy's Julian Taitano with a 10.42m mark.

ACS' Silvia Zucca grabbed silver in the shotput with a mark of 7.83, while gold went to GCA's Azriel Fatialofa at 8.74m. Bronze was ACS' Esther Zhao at 7.73m.

Finally, in the discus throw, Zucca handed ACS another gold with a mark of 23.69m. THS' Abbygaile Ong won silver with her throw of 22.10m, while bronze was Zhao at 21.35m.

ACS administrator and pastor Kok H. Pang attributed his school's continued success in athletics to prioritizing physical fitness along with academics.

"Well, we believe education is not just studying but in other areas like arts, music, and math—all around. A lot of times the physical part is very lacking, so we believe physical training for students is so important," he said.

With that, he said, "Sports gives students confidence and coordination. This helps their studies also." Before the season, he said the team had two months of training.

"We are thankful to the Lord and thankful for NMA, PSS, McDonald's and all the organizers," said Pang.

Results of the 14U middle school boys/girls divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

CORRY

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Shop, TurnKey Solutions, and the tent donation from House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Malcom Omar (Ind-Saipan), Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Diego Camacho (D-Saipan).

Marianas Racing Association president Ellery Cruz and former MRA president Charles Cepeda finished third and fourth with 42 points and 38 points, respectively.

In the Veterans Class, Justis "Cuki" Alvarez won anew with a perfect 50 points, followed by Champi Villacanes' 44 points and Melvin Cepeda's 40 points.

In the Novice Class, Melvin Cepeda ruled the roost with also a perfect 50 points. Ponce Rasa was second with his 42 points with Matthew Guerrero running third with his 40 points.

Results of the other classes of the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

TEAM

From page 16

sion Valerie Hofschneider said.

Team Marianas' delegation is led by familiar names that that have either competed in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap or represented the NMI in the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands. Among them are Isaiah Aleksenko of swimming, Tania Tan and Zarinae Sapong of athletics, and Antonette Labausa of weightlifting. Aleksenko won four medals (one gold and three bronzes) in the 2023 Pacific Games, while Tan had a pair of gold medals (5,000m and 10,000m) in the same competition. Sapong notched four medals (gold, silver, and two bronzes) in the 2018 Micro Games, while Labausa brought home three gold medals in the weightlifting competition.

Labausa and six other NM weightlifters will have their event on June 16 and 17, while Team Marianas' beach volleyball entries will be the first to see action in the Micro Games as the tournament will be held from June 15 to 18. Athletics will run from June 19 to 24; basketball (5x5) and fast pitch will be from June 17 to 24; tennis is slated from June 20 to 23; and wrestling will take place on June 23 and 24. All these competition will be held in Majuro, while swimming races are scheduled in Kwajalein from June 17 to 21

Team Marianas was able to assemble more than 100 delegates for this year's Micronesian Games because of the strong support it received from the business community and NMI residents. Team Marianas is sponsored by Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Skechers, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J Motors, E-Land Group, D&Q, Take-Care Insurance, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corporation, Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Constructions, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corporation, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, P&A Corporation, Jose & Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, and Zoom Café.

"On behalf of the NMSA, we would like to acknowledge the commitment of the athletes and officials and their respective national federations for the Micro Games and as well as the generous support of Team Marianas sponsors and our local community that participated in the fundraising efforts for our delegation," Hofschneider said.

"We are all in this together, sharing the responsibility to be able to participate in the 2024 Micronesian Games, represent the NMI well, and bring honor to our beloved islands," she added.

The following are the athletes and officials roster for Team Marianas:

Athletics: (Athletes) Tania Tan, Zarinae Sapong, Lia and Kina Rangamar, Maria Quitugua, Cheraline Epity, Casey Cruz, Takeru Jim, Daniel Joab, Alexander Camacho, Dereck Rangamar, Christopher Cruz, Jared Ayuyu, Lyle Pedro, Pony and Simon Tang, Theodore Rodgers, Justin Camacho, Cody Shimizu, and Douglas Schmidt; (Officials) Robin Eugenio, Ronald Olopai, and Elias Rangamar.

Basketball: (Women's) Silvina Simram, Yasmeen Younis, Kaia Travilla, Michelle Kautz, Lia Rangamar, Destiny Pangelinan, Madeleine Alegre, Azriel Fatialofa, Lalaine Pagarao, Cassandra Camacho, and Alliyah Fernandez; (Men's) Lucio Aldan, Airson and Aiferson Atan, Douglas Schmidt, Preston Basa, Coby Santos, Jericho Cruz, Chioni Dela Cruz, Gregory Sablan, Marvin Rabauliman, Djay Ong, James Lee, Joaquin Liza, and Antoni Ogumoro; (Officials) Connie Camacho, Marlene Lumabi, Rufino and Carlos Aguon, and John Henry Sablan,

Beach Volleyball: (Athletes) Aurora Santos, Kathleen Winkfield, Dylan Mister, Jermaine Salas

Fastpitch Softball: (Athletes) Ashilie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Jaylina and Kiara Borja, Angel and Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Jenisha Dubrall, Mayiah Duenas, Britney Gopez, Destiny Pangelinan, Allannah Sablan, Rosie Saralu, Kiana Aldan, Jhaneeka Atalig, Kiana Camacho, and Keolani Rios; (Officials) Mark Flores, Manuel Sablan Jr., Mariano Aguon, and Derron Flores.

Swimming: (Athletes) Sari Barman, Maria Batallones, Maria Guerrero, Shoko Litulumar, Frances Raho, Nagi Tenorio, Isaiah Aleksenko, Justin Ma, Michael Miller, Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, and Richard Zhao; (Officials) John Hirsh, Hiro and Yuko Kimura, Dirk Sikkel, and David Roberto Jr.

Tennis: (Athletes) Hannah Chae, Isabel Heras, Hoo Wang, Irin Chung, La Hunn Lam, Colin Ramsey, Robert Schorr, and Si Woo Lee; (Officials) Jeff Race and John Bradley

Weightlifting: (Athletes) Riella Ichiuo, Antonette Labausa, Kaya Rasa, Jaden Andrew, Leowell Cristobal, Lucio Eugenio, and Joseph Pangelinan; (Official) John Davis

Wrestling: (Athletes) Frank Camacho, Ryan Babauta, and James Attao-Green; (Officials) Jason Tarkong and Richard and Kerri Bauer. ***(PR)***

T'Wolves storm back from 20 points down to oust Nuggets

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Matansa, Kanoa to face off in MSL 1 finals

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ACS sweeps HS athletics champs, again

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School Torchbearers once again swept the 18U boys/girls high school division in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEIGH GASES

Agape Christian School's first place girls/boys high school athletics teams along with their girls middle school team during the awards ceremony of the 18U boys/girls high school division in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Northern Marianas Athletics

For the fourth year in a row, the ACS boys were the fastest overall team on the track as they garnered a total 90 points for the gold medal. Silver went to Marianas High School who collected 86 points, while Kagman High School claimed bronze with 79 points.

In the girls division, the Lady Torchbearers team bagged gold with a whopping 149 points; Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays were silver at 56 points, and Saipan International School Lady Geckos settled for bronze with 48 points.

LEIGH GASES

Agape Christian School's athletics multi-medalist Jireh Wang grabs the baton from a teammate during their 4x400m relay race finals during the 18U highs school PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Last Friday, ACS' Jireh Wang grabbed gold in the 1,500m finals with a time of 4:34.04. Silver went to MHS' Michael Miller at 4:40.90, and bronze was MHS' Takeru Jim at 4:49.53.

Wang had a silver run in the 800m race at 2:12.30, while bronze went to teammate James Fan who came in at 2:18.33. Gold went to MHS' Cody Shimizu at 2:11.47.

For the girls long jump event, ACS' Mary Zhu jumped 4.15m which was good for silver. Gold went to SSHS' Haani Passi with a jump of 4.25m and bronze went to teammate Casey Cruz at 4.04m.

Zhu also grabbed another silver in the 800m race with a time of 2:52.58. Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez earned gold with her time of 2:32.08, while ACS' Barbara Wang came in third with 2:54.62.

Zhu's bronze came in the 400m race with her time of 1:12.07. Chavez claimed another gold with a time of 1:06.06, and silver went to Cruz who clocked in at 1:08.36. Another bronze for Zhu was in the 100m race at 14.52 seconds. Cruz had the gold medal with the fastest time of 12.88, while KHS' Filomenoleonisa Iakopo had silver with a 13.60 second sprint.

Barbara Wang also notched a silver in the 1,500m race with a time of 6:12.74. Gold went to Chavez at 5:42.57, and bronze was MHS' Catherine Pan at 6:13.49.

Last Saturday, Jireh Wang was the fastest in the 3,000m middle distance race and had sole possession of gold with his time of 10:03.62. Silver was Miller at 10:23.94, and bronze went to ACS' Fan with a time of 10:24.84.

Jireh Wang was also the

See ACS on Page 15

Team Marianas has over 100 delegates to 2024 Micro Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Clockwise, Tania Tan, Zarinae Sapong, Antonette Labausa, and Isaiah Aleksenko will be competing for Team Marianas in the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands next month.

Team Marianas will have 115 athletes and officials participating in the 2024 Micronesian Games that will be held in the Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024.

MAJOL2024 MICRONESIAN GAMES

The Team Marianas delegation will compete in eight sports—athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, fast-pitch softball, swimming, tennis, weightlifting, and wrestling.

"The registration for the 2024 Micronesian Games has official closed last May 15 and the Northern Marianas Sports Association submitted the names of 90 athletes and 25 officials for accreditation for this year's Micro Games. Team Marianas athletes have been preparing for their respective competitions for months and we have full confidence in their ability to put on a strong performance against our brothers and sisters in Micronesia," chef de mis-

See TEAM on Page 15

Corry claims Expert Class win in May

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Corry Pangelinan won his second monthly Expert Class race of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series after topping last Sunday's competition at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

MRA MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

The 19-year-old Saipan Sunset Cruise and Saipan Sea Cruise staff nosed out defending Expert Class yearly champion Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez to top the division, 47-43 points.

Pangelinan took Heat 1 after Alvarez sustained a flat tire that dropped him to fourth place. The latter would zoom past the former in Heat 2 but it wasn't enough as Pangelinan ultimately took the checkered flag.

"The track conditions were okay it was just really dry, making it hard to see when someone is in front of you. I'd like to dedicate this win to my family for always supporting me and most especially to my uncle Ponce and aunty Marissa Rasa for lending me their bike. If it wasn't for their kind heart, I wouldn't have raced and missed out on points," he said.

Pangelinan also thanked the ERICCO Racing Team, Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value, 670 Rock Steady

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Corry Pangelinan in action in the Expert Class of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.